



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Part 8: *Count the Cost*

Pastor Tom Kang

ICEBREAKER: (If you didn't meet last week) What were some Easter highlights for you this year?

Share some of your insights concerning the "Footprints in the Sand" poem as well as the sequel that was shared this past Sunday.

- 1) Read Jesus' immediate teaching after the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:13). Of all the things he could have transitioned into next, why do you suppose he invests time into this illustration as well as the next one in Matthew 5:14-16? What is the significance here?
- 2) Later in Jesus' ministry, we see another lengthy section of his continuous teaching (Luke 14:25-35). Read this passage aloud as a group and identify the 3 costs and the 3 illustrations given. Why do you suppose so much effort and attention is placed on this topic?
- 3) How literally do you take the 3 costs of discipleship Jesus lays out so clearly (Lk 14:25-27,33) and why? How do you reconcile Jesus' hard teachings and standards (ex: Matthew 5:48)?
- 4) What do passages such as these: Psalm 55:22; 1 Peter 5:7; Matthew 11:28-30 do for your answer to Question #3 above?
- 5) What does the following quote mean to you:
"Becoming Jesus' disciple was not a vocational change, nor a political attachment, nor even a new stirring of God; it was being faced with the eternal decision of whether one would follow Jesus as the Way to eternal life. Any other attachment, whether familial or religious or economic, was substituting another god for Jesus. Entrance to the Way and life on the Way are both had through following Jesus in discipleship."
(Wilkins, *Following the Master: Discipleship in the Steps of Jesus*).
- 6) How "salty" is your life? (Matthew 5:13; Luke 14:34,35)