

09/06/26 Message

Part of FollowJourney of Discipleship

September 5, 2026

Message: What's it Worth

Series: Follow

Background

I'm approaching this series as if we are all in the same stage of our journey with Jesus, at the beginning. For some, this will be a review, but for most it will be a guide for what comes next. For all of us, if we'll let God work in and through us, we'll grow closer to Jesus and each other.

—Pastor Chad

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

19 "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

It's a circle of life with Jesus at the center. When you jump on the circle, it should be your goal to reach out and grab everyone you can and pull them on the circle with you. There's a lot more to it, but it's a great illustration. When you commit your life to Jesus and you commit to following Jesus, then you become His disciple. It's like being a student. You're only a student as long as you choose to be. That's the problem with this thing we call the spiritual journey. So many of us choose Jesus when we need Him, but when life is good, we forget all about Him. We stop being a student!

—Pastor Chad

- The spiritual journey is intended to be a LIFELONG commitment where you start and never stop.

Is Following Jesus Worth It

I want you to think about something. You go shopping and you want something real bad. Likely, the top thing you look for is the cost. What does it cost? If it cost too much, you pass on it. If you look at the cost of following Jesus, it cost everything! Truthfully, it means many people in this room right now have likely passed on following Jesus... all because it cost everything to follow Jesus! This morning I want you to ask another question and I'll argue, it's a more important question than what it costs. What's it worth? That changes everything. It changes our perspective. It changes how we approach decisions. It changes the weight and the value of what's at stake!

—Pastor Chad

A crowd asks: What can Jesus do for me?

A disciple asks: What is Jesus worth to me?

- Is Jesus worth giving up your EXCUSES

Luke 9:57-62 (NLT)

57 As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 But Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head."

59 He said to another person, "Come, follow me." The man agreed, but he said, "Lord, first let me return home and bury my father."

60 But Jesus told him, "Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God."

61 Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family."

62 But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."

The common thread here in all three of these people is we all have excuses not to follow Jesus. All of these folks said they'd follow Jesus, plus something else that came first, but something else that had to happen first. Jesus isn't anti-family, anti-grief, or anti-planning, he's just exposing

the quiet lie that discipleship can be one priority among several equally important ones. It can't! It won't! It's the priority that others get arranged around. It's not the one you do when you have time to do it. It's not the one you do when you get around to it or can pencil it in. It's the one that shapes how you handle the family, the grief, and the planning, because then all activities and actions in your life are shaped by you AND Jesus. It's no longer just about you!

—Pastor Chad

It's funny, we read about the first 12 disciples and that's really all we think about, but there were more than just 12 men following Jesus. There were women in the group. And eventually the group grew from a few to what the Bible refers to as a large crowd following Jesus. As with anytime you have a group of people there's going to be grumbling and complaining. I can just picture Jesus and his peeps walking down the road, he hears grumbling and complaining in the background and he stops...

—Pastor Chad

Luke 14:25-33 (NLT)

25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them,

26 "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

28 "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you.

30 They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'

31 "Or what king would go to war against another king without first

sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him?

32 And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away.

33 So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

- Is Jesus worth giving up your PLACE
(your position in line, with your family, society, of authority, importance)

Remember, we don't take verses out of context, and we look at the "whole" of Scripture and we know Jesus said the most important two commandments are to love God above everything and everyone else and the second is like it, love others as yourself. He's not contradicting his commandment, He's revealing it and explaining it in more detail, showing just how much we have to love Him to be His disciple. We have to put everyone including ourself on one end of the spectrum of love, and Jesus on the extreme other end, giving him preference and priority over everything and everyone else. He is worth giving up our place!

—Pastor Chad

- Is Jesus worth carrying your CROSS

Jesus said if you don't carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. To carry your own cross, first you have to know what you're carrying. What is your cross? When people think of a cross today, they think of something hanging on a neckless as jewelry, or maybe a decoration on a wall in churches and homes. But for those living in the first century, a cross meant death. A cross meant execution. It would be the equivalent of us talking about the electric chair, hanging, firing squad, or lethal injection. The cross meant death. And that's exactly what Jesus was talking about. When Jesus says 'carry your cross' he's saying something has to die! What has to die? My pride. My selfishness. My agenda. My need for

control. My sinful desires. My plans. Sinful relationships. Ties to bad influences. The walls that separate me from doing life with other believers. The schedules that keep me from serving. The barriers that keep me from generously giving. On and on... Following Jesus is not adding Jesus to your life, it is surrendering your life to Jesus.

—Pastor Chad

– The great lie of the modern church: Add Jesus and everything will be ok.

Jesus said absolutely not. You have to carry your cross and nail a lot of things in your life to it, including your past, to be my disciple!

—Pastor Chad

- Is Jesus worth giving up EVERYTHING

If you don't inventory everything in your life, you don't know the things that will pop up later and hold you back. One of the first things you have to do when deciding to follow Jesus is do an inventory. Draw a line in the sand. What people, things, activities bring me closer to Jesus and His people (we call that the church)? What people, things, activities lead me further away from Jesus and the church? The people, things, and activities that lead me away, hinder me, or in any way keep me from being the disciple Jesus wants me to be need to become part of my past and removed from my current reality, and my future. Church, that is hard and I'll be honest, it's probably one of the greatest things that hold people back spiritually.

—Pastor Chad

I call them spiritual roadblocks, but they're really so much more than that. They are roadblocks that keep you away from Jesus and keep you headed for hell, and most of the time we don't even realize it. I believe that's why many will be told when they meet Jesus, depart from me, I never knew you! The roadblocks keep us from fully committing to Jesus. Following Jesus and becoming His

disciple will cost us everything. And it's that way by design. Being His disciple means we are becoming more like Him each and every day and He doesn't hide the price from us.

—Pastor Chad

The cost seems high until we realize what we're getting.

- You give Him your sin; He gives you forgiveness.
- You give Him your guilt; He gives you grace.
- You give Him your brokenness; He gives you restoration.
- You give Him your fear; He gives you peace.
- You give Him your past; He gives you a future.
- You give Him your temporary life; He gives you eternal life!

It Costs Everything

Following Jesus and being His disciple cost everything, because following Jesus and being His disciple is worth everything!

- Are you willing to turn over control of your life to Jesus?
- What's the "but first" in your life that's holding you back?
- What keeps you looking back instead of walking forward?

Your Creator and your Savior is calling you to follow Him and become His disciple.

Think about this; He's more valuable than everything He's asking you to give up.