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**Matthew 8:18-22 The Cost of Following Jesus**

In our world, the teachers with the greatest number of followers get the most attention. But Jesus once again turns things upside down. Instead of highlighting the benefits, Jesus He talks to his followers about the cost of following Him.

*Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. <sup>19</sup> And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>21</sup> Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." <sup>22</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."*

Matthew 8:18-22

Following Jesus will cost you greatly. It will involve suffering. However, only He has the words of eternal life. And he calls you to follow him now. Can you confidently say: "Jesus, I will follow you wherever you go?"

**Discussion Questions**

- Who do you "follow" or regularly listen to - preachers, teachers, news, YouTube, podcasts?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- In verse 20, Jesus states he has nowhere to lay his head, what is he implying about the life he lives? How does that impact those who follow him?
- What has been the cost of following Jesus for you?
- The other disciple expressed reasons not to follow Jesus at that time. What is stopping you from following Jesus fully, right now? What excuses have you been making?
- What are the next steps for you this week?

**Prayer**

*Break up into smaller groups for prayer.*

- Who are you praying for to know Jesus?
- What gospel conversations have you had this week with someone who doesn't follow Jesus?
- How is your time with God?
- What are you praying for?
- What are you struggling with?