



August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Cost of Following Jesus

Key Passages: Acts 21:17- 40

**Matthew 16:24**, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

**John 12:24**, Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

What could God do through \_\_\_\_, if I would lay \_\_\_\_\_ down, and replace it with \_\_\_\_\_?

**Acts 21:17- 24**, When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers and sisters received us warmly. The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present. Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law." They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to out customs. What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come, so do what we tell you. There are four men with us who have made a vow. 24 Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law.

Part of the cost of following Jesus will be people \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 10:25**, And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!

**Matthew 5:11-12**, Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven...

Part of the cost of following Jesus is the need to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 9:19-20**, Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

**Acts 21:25-40**, As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat strangled animals and from sexual immorality." The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the temple to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end and the offering would be made for each of them. When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, shouting, "Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place." (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the Temple.) The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the Temple, and immediately the gates were shut. While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar. He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken to the barracks. When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers. The crowd that followed kept shouting, "Get rid of him!" As the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, "May I say something to you?" "Do you speak Greek?" he replied. Aren't you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the wilderness some time ago?" Paul answered, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people." After receiving the commander's permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic.....

Part of the cost of following Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our personal \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Life Application

There is a cost associated with following Jesus. What is God calling you to embrace or let go of to fully follow Jesus? Write it down, share it with someone and then commit to doing what God reveals to you today.

I will \_\_\_\_\_.