

Sunday Sermon Guide

Central Baptist Church – Crockett, Texas

November 16, 2025 – Miracle Moments: The Cost of Following the King

Series: Miracle Moments: Power of the King

Main Passage: Matthew 8:18-22

SCRIPTURE READING

“When Jesus saw a large crowd around him, he gave the order to go to the other side of the sea. A scribe approached him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.’ Jesus told him, ‘Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.’ ‘Lord,’ another of his disciples said, ‘first let me go bury my father.’ But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.’”

— Matthew 8:18-22 (CSB)

SERMON OUTLINE

I. The Setting — A Shift in Focus (v. 18)

- Jesus commands the disciples to go to the other side, marking a shift from healing the body to revealing His authority over creation.
- The crowds grew large—many wanted miracles, few wanted discipleship.
- *Truth:* Jesus often separates the curious from the committed.

II. The Enthusiastic Volunteer — The Cost of Comfort (vv. 19–20)

- A scribe says, 'I will follow You wherever You go.'
- His enthusiasm was genuine but shallow. He wanted to follow Jesus without giving up security.
- Jesus replies: 'Foxes have dens... the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.'
- *Lesson:* Discipleship means forsaking personal comfort for faithful obedience.
- Cross Reference: Luke 14:28–30; 2 Timothy 3:12
- *Ask yourself:* Do I love the idea of following Jesus more than the reality of obeying Him daily?

III. The Hesitant Disciple — The Cost of Delay (vv. 21–22)

- Another says, 'First let me bury my father.'

- He wasn't asking to attend a funeral—he was delaying obedience until a 'better time.'
- Jesus responds, 'Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.'
- Lesson: Delayed obedience is disobedience.
- Cross Reference: Luke 9:59–62; Luke 14:16–24; James 4:17
- Ask yourself: What excuses or priorities am I placing ahead of God's call?

IV. The Lesson — True Discipleship Costs Everything

- Two dangers in following Jesus:
 1. Emotional enthusiasm that fades when sacrifice begins.
 2. Emotional hesitation that delays obedience until it's convenient.
- *Quote (Warren Wiersbe):* "We do not follow Jesus to gain comfort; we follow Him because He is worthy."
- Call (Luke 9:23): 'If anyone wants to follow after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'
- True discipleship is not about comfort—it's about commitment.

APPLICATION

- Have you counted the cost of following Jesus?
- Are you following Him only when it's easy—or even when it costs you something?
- Jesus calls His followers to immediate, complete, and continual obedience.

Next Steps:

- ☐ Follow Jesus in salvation.
- ☐ Follow Him in believers' baptism.
- ☐ Follow Him in service and surrender.
- ☐ Follow Him in daily obedience.

“A true disciple will follow Jesus wherever He leads, whenever He calls, and at whatever cost.” – Pastor Shane

“The entrance fee into the Kingdom of Heaven is nothing; the annual subscription is everything.” – Henry Drummond

“Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer