

**Main Idea:** What Jesus did for us on the cross costs us nothing, but following Him eventually costs us something.

**Series Conclusion**

For several weeks now we have been attempting to answer a very basic question. It's a question that brings people to church. It's a question people consider whether or not they have ever attended church.

**Q: What does it mean to follow Jesus?** Today we will examine the fine print. It's important to understand this going in. It's part of moving from a consumer to a true follower. It costs you something.

**Background**

At the beginning of chapter 8 Jesus has fed 4000 people. This is a separate event from the feeding of the 5000 described in Matthew 14. The details differ significantly. This audience was very likely predominantly Gentile not Jewish. In both cases however, the crowd was filled with consumers.

**Self-Denial and Cross-Bearing**

Jesus has a message for His closest followers – You have to learn how to say “No” to you. This will be the only way to say “Yes” to your Heavenly Father. You are going to have to leave your self-sovereignty behind. You are going to have to embrace My agenda. At some point my agenda will collide with yours and as a follower, I expect you to say “No” to yourself.

**Mark 8:35-36 Explanation**

The disciples are about to make an enormous discovery. Imagine having it all. You have lived the best life possible! But at the very end you must give up your eternal soul. What would you do? In that moment you would want to trade it all to get your soul back. Correct?

On the other hand, Jesus says don't get so wrapped up in this life. Be willing to give it all the way. You're going to lose it anyway. Here's what Jesus taught them – **My Soul > My Things**. We're going to lose it all anyway. Death is inevitable. Jesus gives me the opportunity to lose it someday in a way that impacts the destination of my soul and the rewards that follow.

**Grace and Discipleship**

We're talking about moving from **consumerism to discipleship**. Disciples follow Christ. Here's the reality of our Christian faith. Salvation is free; it costs us nothing (that's grace) but following Christ will eventually cost you something (that's discipleship).

**Family Night Big idea – Read Mark 8:27-38**

Move your children away from a “being good” belief structure and toward a “following” mindset. Help them understand that it's easy to say we believe, but it will cost them something if they want to follow Jesus.

**Elementary School** – Ask, “Why did Jesus scold Peter? What does it take to follow Jesus (v.34). What happens to people who are ashamed of Jesus? Why do you want to follow Jesus?”

**Middle/ High School** – Ask, “Do you find it difficult to say ‘NO’ to yourself? Why? How would you define self-denial and cross-bearing? What did Jesus mean in v.35? Why do you want to follow Jesus?”

**Prayer:** "Father we want to follow Jesus. Help us learn to say 'NO' to ourselves. Amen."

**Velocity (Middle and High School Students)**

**Velocity:** At the church this Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Gravity:** Meet in the Community Room today.

**Today's Songs**

*This is Amazing Grace*.....Phil Wickham

*Great Are You Lord*.....Casting Crowns

*Holy is the Lord*.....Chris Tomlin

**Our Church Remodel is Complete!**

Thanks to your generosity and giving to our building fund, we have been able to build new additions and update the old. We have completed our project with the renovation of our Velocity Theater for our youth. Everyone is welcome to walk over and check out the Velocity Theater TODAY!

**Graduate Recognition**

Seniors will be recognized on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Baby Dedication**

Baby Dedication Service is May 12<sup>th</sup> in both services. It is important that you pick up an information sheet when you sign up in the lobby. Please note which service you prefer. We will need the full name of your child as you would want it to read on their certificate.

**KidsJAM Summer Camp "Game On"**

Summer Camp for rising Pre-K through rising Third Graders is June 10-14. Camp starts each day at 9:00am and ends at noon. Cost is \$15 per child. Online registration will begin this Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Go to the church app or website.