

STUDY NOTES

THE WAY AND THE WORDS OF JESUS A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Hate Your Father And Mother” on 2/11/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 14:25-33

DISCIPLESHIP IS DEMANDING

Jesus tells us right up front what it means to be one of his disciples. There are no hidden costs or things that we find out later. Being a disciple is demanding because it calls us to place Jesus above everything else.

“Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

- *What are experiences with finding hidden costs after committing to something?*
- *Some people “negotiate” with Christ about becoming a disciple (i.e., “if you do _____, then I will follow you.”). In what ways have you made offers to Jesus about being his disciple?*

DISCIPLESHIP IS DISRUPTIVE

In the Eastern context that Jesus was speaking, family was above everything else. They respected the father and mother in the home, and the end goal for them was to get married and have kids. They would plan their life out. Jesus disrupts your agenda. If you come to him with a list of demands, you will be disappointed.

Jesus is not the means to your ends. Jesus is the end, and your life is the means.

- *Share how Jesus has disrupted your agenda in life.*

DISCIPLESHIP IS DIVISIVE

We don't hear that discipleship is divisive often, because Jesus is also described as the Prince of Peace—which he is! However, Jesus calls us to put our relationship with him above all other relationships. For some this is family and for others this is friends. This will mean that some people separate from you, and you may distance yourself from some people. This division is directly along the fault line of Jesus.

- *What is your experience with Jesus dividing relationships?*
- *How can you still love people and be a witness to people who are bad influences on you while separating yourself from them?*

DISCIPLESHIP IS “DEATH”

We don't have to have our life together to follow Jesus. However, “When Christ calls us, he bids us come and die.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*) This isn't a call to self-loath, but a call to crucify our ego. Crucifixion is a slow death, but the cost of non-discipleship is so much greater.

The cost of non-discipleship is real death.

- *Where would you assess yourself on the life-long process of crucifying your ego?*
- *How have you felt tangible ways that following Jesus brought you new life through putting your old self to “death”?*
- *Pray with each other to feel the new life Jesus gives this week.*