“DISCIPLESHIP”

Binhi sang Pagtuo

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Dear Friends,

Greetings!

When you love somebody it involves commitment. Jesus too is asking for our commitment. The cost of committing our lives to Jesus is costly. This is what Jesus said to the people who desired to follow him:

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple... Anyone who does not give up everything cannot be my disciple.”
Luke 14:25-33

Jesus was brutally frank with his listeners in this passage. He was telling them the difference between an admirer and a true disciple. Being a follower of Jesus will cost us three things:

First, it will cost us how we view our relationship with others. Was Jesus telling us to “hate” others? No. He was just using an idiomatic expression. Matthew puts it this way, “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

Jesus is telling us that He comes first in all our relationships. No one and nothing should become a barrier in our relationship with Him.

Second, it will cost us how we look at our own selves. A true disciple of Jesus cannot say “no” to Jesus. When we make Jesus as Lord of our lives, it really means “all” areas of our life. We cannot say to Jesus that there are some parts of our lives that He cannot rule. We must be willing to deny ourselves and instead follow the way of Jesus in every aspect of our lives.

Thirdly, it will cost us how we understand our possessions. Jesus is asking us to give up everything. Jesus is telling us to change our perspective of ownership. Jesus is challenging us to see that everything around us is not our own. God owns everything. We are the caretakers. If this is our understanding, then it is not difficult to share what we have.

Are we willing to accept the cost of discipleship?

Let me end with the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote a book entitled “The Cost of Discipleship.” In this book he tells the difference between “cheap grace” that oftentimes the church is offering to people, and the “costly grace” that Jesus offers to us.

“Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace...Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without us to follow...Jesus Christ. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son, and what has cost God much cannot be cheaper for us.”

May God bless us all!

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis Neil G. Jalando-on