

**The Cost of Discipleship****Bible passages: Luke 14:25-33; Philemon 1-21****Introduction**

- Some things are costly but worth it

**Carrying our cross**

- This figure of speech (verse 27) would have horrified Jesus' listeners – the cross was an instrument of death, suffering and shame.
- Sacrifice is more than giving something up

**Does Jesus really want me to hate my family?**

- Some have to leave family and friends to follow Jesus. Others will have to make choices that our loved ones don't understand or agree with
- But as we choose God we will have more capacity to love others

**Following Jesus also goes against our own desires**

- We have to give up our own desires, and trust God even when things don't go our way

**Conclusion**

- Following Jesus is worth it!
- Examples of Paul, and our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East who know the true cost of discipleship

**Questions for discussion:**

1. To begin – can you think of anything in your life that has had a huge monetary cost? Was it worth it?
2. Looking at verse 27, how does the image of “carrying one's cross” make you feel?
3. Can you think of anyone you know who has had to make a huge sacrifice to follow Jesus? This could be going against the norm or even offending their friends and family. When you think about this, how does it impact you?
4. Is there anything you have had to sacrifice to follow Jesus? Have there been times in your life when your friends or family have been displeased with the choices you have made as a Christian?
5. As you read this passage, is there anything God is prompting you to sacrifice to him?
6. Looking at the passage in Philemon, particularly verses 4-7. Is there a close Christian friend whom you could partner with in prayer about anything from the above points?