

*Some questions for you to consider..... Please be selective.*

Take any thoughts/questions/comments about the service including the sermon. What was particularly encouraging or difficult?

v.18 Jesus saw the crowds but decided to leave. Do you think that sometimes we want to be more available to others than Jesus was? What might we take away from that?

What do we learn about the business of following Jesus from this text? How might discipleship impact our other priorities?

If following Jesus doesn't impact our lifestyle, if it doesn't inconvenience our priorities, are we doing something wrong? What might that tell us?

There's a cost to following Jesus but there's also a cost to not following Jesus (to not making Jesus the ultimate authority in our lives). What might that cost look like?

If we hold something other than Christ as our greatest treasure what could be the effect of that on ourselves and others?

*We could just try harder to follow Jesus but the problem with this is that it can become a means of self-salvation, of works-based righteousness. We need to live for Christ out of the grace He has shown to us and for that we must know Christ and Him crucified – we need to see His wounds.*

“Non-discipleship costs abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout by love, faith that sees everything in the light of God’s overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm in the most discouraging of circumstances, power to do what is right and withstand the forces of evil. In short, it costs exactly that abundance of life Jesus said he came to bring (John 10:10). The cross-shaped yolk of Christ is after all an instrument of liberation and power to those who live in it with him and learn the meekness and lowliness of heart that brings rest to the soul...The correct perspective is to see following Christ not only as the necessity it is, but as the fulfilment of the highest human possibilities and as life on the highest plane.” Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*

How does the work of Christ, the gospel stir and move our hearts to want to obey and serve Him?