

## Discipleship - Counting the cost

"Christians in the West, have largely neglected what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ....."

## Discipleship - Counting the cost

The vast majority of Western Christians are church-members, pew-fillers, hymn-singers, sermon-tasters, Bible-readers, even born-again believers or Spirit-filled Charismatics – and we have got some of those here this morning - but aren't true disciples of Jesus Christ....

## Discipleship - Counting the cost

If we were willing to learn the meaning of real discipleship and actually to become disciples, the Church in the West would be transformed, and the resultant impact on society would be staggering."



## Discipleship - **blessings**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*

Eph. 1 v 3

## Discipleship - **responsibility**

- to be different and distinctive
- to be salt and light
- to allow the Spirit to make us Christ-like
- to be holy as He is holy

## 3 would-be disciples

1. "I will follow you...."
2. "Let me first go and bury my father."
3. "Let me say goodbye to my family."

## Discipleship - count the cost!

*As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus **resolutely** set out for Jerusalem.*

Luke 9 v 51

## Discipleship - count the cost!

“The test of faith is not the emotion of the heart, or the profession of our words, but the action of our lives.”

W. Barclay

"They gave our Master a crown of thorns. Why do we hope for a crown of roses?"

Martin Luther

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**to find our security in Him, and not solely in our own ability to provide it**

## Discipleship - challenge of single-mindedness

*No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.*

Luke 9 v 62

## Discipleship - challenge of single-mindedness

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.....*

Heb. 12 v 2

## Jesus - the example

*“...who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

Heb. 12 vv 2-3