

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

# JESUS IS KING



## The Cost of Discipleship

**Text:** Matthew 8:18-34

### 1. The Cost of Discipleship - Matthew 8:18-20

**Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest:** With the miracles that Jesus did following Him might have seemed more glamorous than it really was.

Following Jesus is the best choice you can make but it doesn't come without sacrifice.

**The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head:** Jesus didn't tell the man "No, you can't follow Me." But He told him the truth, without painting a glamorized version of what it was like to follow Him.

In the immediate context of Jesus' ministry, the saying does not mean that Jesus was penniless but the nature of his mission kept him on the move and would keep his followers on the move.

Jesus lived a very simple life by faith, trusting His Father for every need and without reserves of material resources.

## 2. The Preeminence of Discipleship - Matthew 8:21-22

This man was **another of His disciples**; yet he did not follow Jesus as he should have, nor as the 12 disciples did. This shows us that the term **disciples** has a somewhat broad meaning in the Gospel of Matthew, and must be understood in its context.

The man wanted to follow Jesus, *but not just yet*. He knew it was good and that he should do it, but he felt there was a good reason why he could not do it *now*.

I think all of us want to follow Jesus with all our heart. Very few people come to church on a Sunday morning that don't want to follow Jesus.

**Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead:** Jesus pressed the man to follow Him *now*, and clearly stated the principle that family obligations – or any other obligation – must not be put ahead of following Jesus. Jesus must come first.

Jesus was not afraid to discourage potential disciples. Unlike many modern evangelists, He was interested more in *quality* than in *quantity*.

Also, Jesus was being *honest*. This is what it meant to follow Him, and He wanted people to know it at the beginning.

## 3. A storm on the Sea of Galilee - Matthew 8:23-25

Though the disciples were desperate, Jesus **was asleep**. It must have seemed strange to them that He could sleep in the midst of such a **great tempest**.

The phrase “**But He was asleep**” conveys a “dramatic contrast”; the storm raged, the disciples panicked, **but He was asleep**.

We are impressed by the fact that He *needed to sleep*, showing His true humanity. He became tired and would sometimes need to catch sleep wherever He was able to, even in unlikely places.

We are impressed by the fact that He *could sleep*. His mind and heart were peaceful enough, trusting in the love and care of His Father in heaven, that He could sleep in the storm.

#### **4. Jesus calms the Storm - Matthew 8:26-27**

Jesus rebuked their fear and unbelief, not their request or waking Him.

They actually had many reasons to have faith, even great faith.

- They had just seen Jesus do significant miracles, showing great power and authority.
- They had seen an example of great faith with the centurion who trusted Jesus to heal his servant.
- They had Jesus with them in the boat. And, they saw Jesus sleep; His peace should have given them peace.

**But the men marveled:** The disciples were amazed. Such a powerful display over creation led them to ask, “**What manner of man is this?**” It could only be the LORD, Jehovah, who only has this power and authority:

#### **See Psalm 89:8-9**

In the span of a few moments, the disciples saw both the complete humanity of Jesus (in His tired sleep) and the fullness of His deity. They saw Jesus for who He is: truly man and truly God.

