



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK 4

This week we concluded our series, *It All Belongs to God*, by looking into the true cost of discipleship. The invitation to follow is a free gift. We receive the grace of God freely but it is a costly grace that, once received, requires our very lives. Providence Church demonstrated a faithful response to God's grace by generously sponsoring complete Thanksgiving feasts for 1,400 families in our community! May you be comforted and challenged as you prayerfully read this week's scripture passages.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: MARK 10.17-30

*As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

<sup>18</sup> "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

<sup>20</sup> "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

<sup>22</sup> At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

<sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

<sup>28</sup> Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

<sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

- This passage could very well sound like a gloomy outlook for anyone with wealth. A camel through the eye of a sewing needle? Impossible, except through the divine grace offered through Jesus. Only by giving everything to Jesus (it all belongs to God) can we see the kingdom of God. A camel can get through the eye of a needle when Jesus is our focus. **Put yourself in the shoes of the man who approached Jesus. Can you imagine your response to Jesus’ command to give away all of your wealth? What does that look like for you?**
- *Jesus, give me the courage and the faith to offer everything to you...my bank account, my time, my family, my life. Salvation is possible only through you. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: EPHESIANS 2.6-10

*And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- There is no amount of work we can do in order to achieve salvation. This is such a ground-breaking concept that we still wrestle with it today. In this precise phrase from Paul, we can see that good works do not produce salvation, rather they flow from our salvation. We are still created to do good in the world, it just doesn’t buy us anything. **Are you able to tell the difference between doing something good out of obligation or selfishness versus good works that flow from generosity and gratitude?**
- *God, thank you for the riches of your grace. I have done nothing to earn it, but you give it to me freely. May my life be a response to your kindness. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY: LUKE 14.25-33

*Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*

- The life of a disciple is built on the sacrificial life of Jesus. It is not built on our systems of family and wealth. It is possible to become a disciple of wealth and legacy rather than a disciple of Jesus. The language of hatred gets our attention, but it is Jesus' way of saying that no one can be more important to a disciple than the one they are following. We are invited by Jesus to consider the costs of discipleship so that our foundation will be strong in him. **What relationships or possessions come to mind when you consider Jesus' invitation?**
- *God, I want to be all-in so show me how to prioritize, that I might have a foundation of discipleship that is all about Jesus. Amen.*

#### THURSDAY: PHILIPPIANS 3.7-11

*But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.<sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ<sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.<sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,<sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

- Everything in this world pales in comparison with the knowledge of Christ Jesus. What stands out to you about this passage? **Consider one of your prized possessions. Are there moments when you are tempted to preserve or secure your possessions more than focusing on Jesus? When has the act of giving something away felt like an enormous gain for you?**
- *God, I say with Paul— I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and attaining to the resurrection from the dead! Amen.*

#### FRIDAY: MATTHEW 16.24-27

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.<sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.<sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?<sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.*

- When Jesus said that a disciple will have to carry their cross, he was referring to the Roman practice of requiring a convicted criminal to carry their cross to the place of crucifixion. It's what Jesus was forced to do until another man was designated to carry it for him. The cross here becomes a symbol of journeying towards the kind of “death to self” that is required of disciples. **When have you felt that you gained something by losing something else?**
- *Jesus, I want to follow you. I want to walk with you and live for you. I need your grace to cover me when I try to live only for myself. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: ROMANS 11.5-6

*...at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup> And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.*

- In Paul's age the church existed as a remnant among the larger culture. It existed only by God's grace. We might be able to understand that sense in our time as well. Like Paul, we must resist the temptation to base our participation in the movement of the church on our own works and strength. It is by God's grace alone that we can call ourselves Christians.
- *God, I rely completely on the grace you have given to me. Remove my tendency to cheapen your grace. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read these quotes from Christian martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

*"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus." -Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

*"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow Him, or it may be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time—death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call."-Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

- Would you say your life at this moment is defined by costly grace or cheap grace?
- How do you hold the free grace and the cost of discipleship at the same time? What does that mean for how you live your life as a disciple of Jesus?

Learn more about Dietrich Bonhoeffer [here](#).