



## WEEKLY STUDY

### WEEK TWO

It is week two of the Made for More message series. When discovering our God-given purpose we look for clarity from God and then we consider the costs. Jesus made it clear that following him would have considerable costs. What you thought mattered, what you thought provided you security, might be on the table. The cost is not too much, but it may be everything! It's not too much because following Jesus is worth it. May you grow in confidence and commitment as you study and pray through the scripture this week.

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: LUKE 9.57-62 (ESV)

*As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."<sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."<sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."<sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."<sup>61</sup> Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."<sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."*

- With all of the buzz surrounding Jesus in those days, it is understandable that some new followers really wanted to get close to him. The man who said, "I will follow you wherever you go." probably believed what he was saying. He wanted to be a part of the inner circle and to show Jesus that he was ready. Jesus knew that he hadn't had the years of training that the disciples had. He was caught up in the excitement of the moment but had not yet considered the cost. The same was true of the second and third men that Jesus invited on the journey. The cost was real and the moment was urgent. Jesus was on his way to the cross. They didn't realize that they were seeking

to follow One who was on death row. **Have you ever found that following Jesus was harder than you thought it would be?**

- *God, I want to be able to say that I will follow Jesus where he goes, but I confess that I don't always consider the cost. Deepen my faith Lord, that I might respond to his call. Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: MATTHEW 16.24-27 (NIV)**

*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.*

- It was hard news for Peter and the other disciples. Jesus was walking a road of suffering for the sake of the world. The One who was heading towards an actual Roman cross told his followers they would do the same. It was more than a metaphor for those who were walking the road with him. We typically hear it as a metaphor, but it's more of a sign. Hopefully we won't be called to carry an actual cross, but the cross is a sign of the suffering that we all endure. It's inevitable. But we suffer with hope that we will find our true life in Jesus. **How do these words sit with you? How do they challenge your understanding of gaining in this world?**
- *God, I know that there is a cost in following Jesus. I can't see it all now, but I've seen enough of Jesus to know that life with him is worth the sacrifice. Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY: GENESIS 12.1 (NIV)**

*The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*

- God's first words to Abram (soon to be Abraham) are a directive to leave. He is told to leave his country, his people and the security of his father's household. A key thing to notice about God though, is that he doesn't just call a person to change his or her entire life for nothing...the leaving has a purpose. In this case, the purpose is to get Abram to a new land that God had in mind for his people. **Have you ever had to leave behind a safe and secure situation in order to follow God's direction? What was that like? Is there something you are in the process of leaving behind right now?**
- *Loving God, thank you for the faithful example of Abraham. I know that you ask me to do hard things. Forgive me for choosing security and safety over your call. Give me vision of the land you are leading me to. Amen.*

## **THURSDAY: EPHESIANS 2.8-10 (NIV)**

*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.*

- The grace of God is by definition, a gift. We have done nothing to deserve it. But as Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, this grace is not cheap. It was costly for God and it requires much of us who have received it. But in receiving it, we also participate in the good works that God has laid out for us. **Do you see yourself as God's handiwork? How does God's grace through Jesus Christ humble you and prepare you to live out your purpose? (For more on Bonhoeffer, see the Small Group Discussion below)**
- *God, your grace is not cheap, it costs you so much. Thank you for the generous gift of grace that gives me everything I need to follow you into good works. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: 1 PETER 2.21-22 (NIV)**

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

<sup>22</sup> *"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."*

- In a passage all about submission, Peter seems to be quoting an early hymn that remembers Jesus' suffering and perseverance for our sake. "You should follow his steps" are actually difficult words for those of us who consider ourselves to be Christians. His steps were good but hard and they led to our salvation. **What do you find to be the more difficult parts of following the example Christ set for us?**
- *Jesus, I will try to follow your steps today, wherever they lead me, I want to go where you have called me to go. Amen.*

#### **SATURDAY: PHILIPPIANS 2.17-18 (NIV)**

*But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup> So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.*

- Paul has been telling these new disciples to walk worthy of the gospel. To be humble as Jesus was humble and live faithfully in community. Sometimes Paul comes across as a little dramatic, but his life was indeed poured out like a drink offering for the sake of the gospel in so many places. His language is like that of a consecration over the good work of the church in Philippi. He encourages them to rejoice in it, and to emulate his sacrificial way of living in order to continue the spread of the gospel. **In what areas of your life do you pour yourself out for others for the sake of the gospel?**
- *Holy God, may my life of sacrifice and service point others to your Son today. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the following quote from the revered Dietrich Bonhoeffer who lived his words by standing up to the Nazi regime during World War II. His convictions and actions ended up costing him his life. He followed the example of Jesus all the way to heaven.

*“Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?..*

*Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.*

*Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*

- What words stand out to you in this passage?
- Where do you experience or witness cheap grace in today's world?
- What examples of costly grace have you encountered?