

Discipleship's Demands
Matthew 8:18-22

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Open Your Heart and Mind

- When did you have a time in your life that you wanted to do something and didn't count the cost ahead of time?

Finding God in His Word (Read Matthew 8:18-22)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage?
- Does the background on discipleship and education in 1st century Israel help in understanding what is going on in this passage, and some of the preconceived notions of discipleship that Jesus is challenging?
- When you think about discipleship, what images come to mind? What makes discipleship difficult? What makes it a joy? In what ways would you say discipleship in the church (local or global) is lacking/is doing well? Can someone be a Christian without being a disciple?
- In the first case study, the Scribe is seeking Jesus for what the Scribe thinks he can get. What do you think some of those things are the Scribe would have been seeing?
- Why does Jesus need to challenge this attitude in the Scribe?
- Why do you think Jesus did not concern Himself with "things" in the world? Are "things" ungodly?
- In what ways has your security or comfort been challenged or abandoned because you are a disciple of Jesus?
- The second man is called a disciple by Matthew. What distinctions, if any, do you think there were between The Twelve, and other disciples? During His ministry, what did many of these other disciples do with what Jesus was saying (See John 6:60-71)?
- How do good things get in the way of faithful discipleship?
- How do we delay following Jesus in our day?
- What is the balance we need to find in being in absolute allegiance to Jesus and dealing with the demands of our lives (work, home, etc)?

Live the Christ Life

1. What are you needing to set aside or give up in order to more fully and faithfully follow Jesus?