formed

Words That Move Us From Believer to Disciple

THE COST AND CALLING OF A DISCIPLE

Formed
Week 1
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KEY POINTS

- Eternal freedom has been declared through Christ, but without delivery of the gospel message, people remain in bondage to sin.
- Many people follow Jesus for benefits (miracles, blessings, better life) rather than for who He truly is.
- True discipleship costs something: social acceptance, material prosperity, and personal control.
- What we grumble about reveals what we expect from life and which kingdom we're living for—the kingdom of self or the kingdom of God.
- Grumbling to Jesus rather than about Jesus keeps us from walking away when faith becomes difficult.
- Hard things are formative things—difficulty develops character, endurance, and dependence on Christ.
- The dependent version of ourselves is the best version of ourselves.
- True disciples stay and follow even when it's hard because they know Jesus alone has the words of life.
- Spiritual formation comes through consuming God's Word, being led by the Holy Spirit, and obeying Jesus' commands.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Romans 10:14
John 6:1-2
John 6:14
John 6:26
John 6:27
John 6:28-29
John 6:35
John 6:40
John 6:41-42
1John 6:47-51
John 6:53-56
John 6:60
John 6:63
John 6:66-68

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the story of Juneteenth challenge us to think about our responsibility to share the gospel with those who are still living in spiritual bondage?

2. In what areas of your life do you need to shift from believing in the benefits of following Jesus to believing in Jesus Himself?

3. What are the social costs of discipleship that you have personally experienced or witnessed when standing out as different because of your faith?

4. Who do you tend to grumble to when you are frustrated with God or the church, and how might bringing those frustrations directly to Jesus change your perspective?

5. What specific hard thing is Jesus calling you to stay faithful in right now, even though everything in you wants to walk away?