

## 09-04-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“The gospel is much more than an ethical message about a moral life. It is about Jesus, the kingdom he came to proclaim, and loving God before all else.”

- Jerry Owyang



Luke 14:25-33

### Questions for Reflection —

- What would it look like for you to live your life in full devotion to God, loving God before all else? What are the competing loyalties and obligations that sometimes interfere with your living a life of committed discipleship? What helps you find balance when you face such conflicts in priorities? How do your possessions and/or concern for material security impact your spiritual welfare? Onto what are you holding—relationships, possessions, habits, attitudes—that threatens to take priority over your discipleship? What will help you to let go?
  
- When/how in your life have you been most aware of the cost of following Jesus? What are the crosses (past or present) in your life? What are the struggles you face related to various facets of your life—family, work or school, finances, health? What does faithful discipleship look like in the face of life’s challenges? How have you experienced God’s sustaining love and care in enabling you to carry the crosses in your life? What will help you to remain aware of God’s presence and comfort with you as you face various challenges?
  
- What does it mean for us to count the cost of discipleship together as a congregation? What does costly discipleship look like for us in the face of ecological crises and creation care? In view of other societal issues such as hunger, poverty, and the pandemic? What habits or traditions in our way of doing church might be getting in the way of genuine ministry which addresses pressing human needs? What would sacrificial use of our building and our endowment monies for the sake of God’s kin-dom in the world look like?

### Daily Household Prayer

Direct and help us, O God in all our deeds, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in and through you, we may glorify your holy name, and by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.