

Jesus deals with the cost of calling in pioneering.

I. WRONG IDEAS OF MINISTRY

A. There are wrong ideas about calling that Jesus must address

1. Ministry is about your personal benefits

- a. See Pastors who dress decent/travel/have a car/get to preach publicly/become known (sometimes)
- b. We think: I want that! That's how it will be for me...money/fame

2. Ministry would be a nice thing to try: *We find guns/computers/sports interesting...hey, wouldn't it be neat to be a Pastor?*

B. These ideas will cause you problems

1. What happens if you don't get what you thought you would?

- a. What if you're not succeeding financially/don't become known/not invited to preach...?

2. It is disorienting and discouraging for some

- a. *Can cause them to turn their back on calling – become bitter at Pastor/God*

II. THE COST OF CALLING

A. Jesus is not a tricky salesman – He is honest: **Calling/ministry has cost!**

1. **Family cost:** *Matthew 10:37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

- a. Family may not approve of our calling: *Try and talk us out of it/pressure us against it*
- b. There will be the cost of separation: *Can't take your family with you!*

2. **Personal cost:** *Matthew 10:38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.*

- a. Take up your cross: Anything that gets in the way of Jesus needs to go - needs to die
- b. This will work out differently in different people
 - 1. Money/plans/relationships...

B. Jesus wants us to assess with eyes wide open: What is getting in the way?

1. Deal with it/get rid of it/lay it on the altar: Calling requires our highest priority!

- a. *Mark 1:18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.*

b. 1 Kings 19:21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

III. LOVE AND REWARD

A. Jesus shows us the only thing that will keep us going: Love!

1. *V37 love family...more than me:* You have to love Jesus to fulfill your calling

- a. A sense of gratitude to God: He saved us – allows us to be a part of His will
 - 1. *Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

2. This is what enables you to survive over the long haul

a. John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My sheep."

- 1. People are fickle – money comes/goes: But God deserves our love – always!

B. There is a great promise here

1. *Matthew 10:39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

- a. When we think life is about our desires: \$/fame/success/people approval...we lose!

- 1. You lose your purpose 2. You lose true satisfaction

2. But Jesus says losing is the path to finding

- a. When you say no to your desires for His sake – we find ourselves

1. We find who we were meant to be: I am very different than when I was chasing my own will...

- a. *You realize: This is who I was made to be!*

2. We find usefulness: *It is a wonderful thing to feel useful in life*

3. We find the pleasure of God: *For my sake...*

a. Matthew 12:18 "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.