

The COST of DISCIPLESHIP

Church of the Messiah

August 15, 2021

- ▶ *Spirituality is not a formula; it is not a test. It is a relationship. Spirituality is not about competency; it is about intimacy. Spirituality is not about perfection; it is about connection. The way of the spiritual life begins where we are now in the mess of our lives. Accepting the reality of our broken, flawed lives is the beginning of spirituality, not because the spiritual life will remove our flaws, but because we let go of seeking perfection and instead seek God, the one who is present in the tangledness of our lives. Spirituality is not about being fixed; it is about God's being present in the mess of our unfixedness.*

Citation: Mike Yaconelli, Messy Spirituality (Zondervan, 2002), p. 13

The TERMS of Discipleship

▶ A supreme love for Jesus

- ▶ *(Luke 14:26) If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters yes even his own life he cannot be my disciple and anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*
- ▶ **Question: Are there any loves that I am putting before the Lord?**

▶ A denial of self

- ▶ *(Matthew 16:24) Then Jesus said to his disciples, if anyone would come after me, you must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me for whoever wants to save his life will lose it or whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet loses his own soul.*
- ▶ **Question: What areas am I still holding onto and what areas the Lord is calling me to “deny myself?”**

Terms of Discipleship

- ▶ A deliberate choosing of the cross
 - ▶ What am I most fearful about in choosing the cross?
- ▶ A life spent in following Jesus (Luke 9:23)
 - ▶ What areas have I not fully obeyed where the Lord has already spoken? And WHY?
- ▶ A fervent love for all those who belong to Jesus
 - ▶ (John 13:34-35) *A new commandment I give to you: love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another*
 - ▶ **“Do I have any unforgiveness or resentment toward someone? Do I avoid certain people because I am not comfortable with them? Who is God directing me to love who I would naturally be drawn to?”**

Terms of Discipleship

▶ An unswerving continuance in His Word

- ▶ John 8:31-32 *“To the Jews who had believed him Jesus said, if you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. And then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free”*
- ▶ **QUESTION: “Where has the Lord already spoken where I have yet to obey His voice? What commands have I been avoiding?”**

▶ A forsaking of ALL to follow Him

- ▶ (Luke 14:33) *In the same way if any of you who does not give up everything he cannot be my disciple.*
- ▶ **QUESTION: “Am I willing to abandon material things for the sake of the kingdom? Where could I do more to lay up treasures in heaven?”**