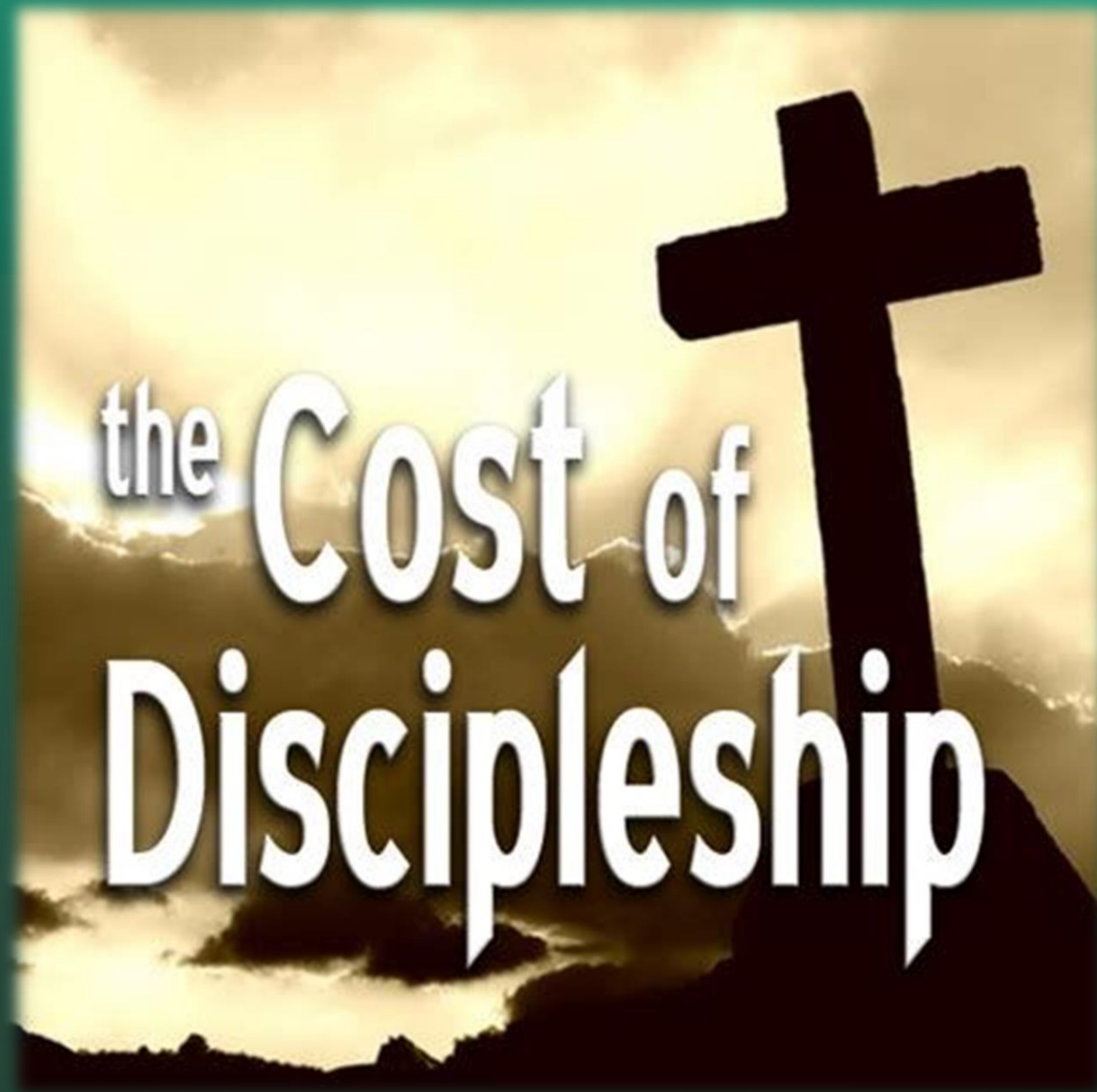


Senior Bible Study Ministry

Gospel of Matthew

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>



the **Cost of**
Discipleship

Matthew 19 (NIV)

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

17 “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.” 18 “Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

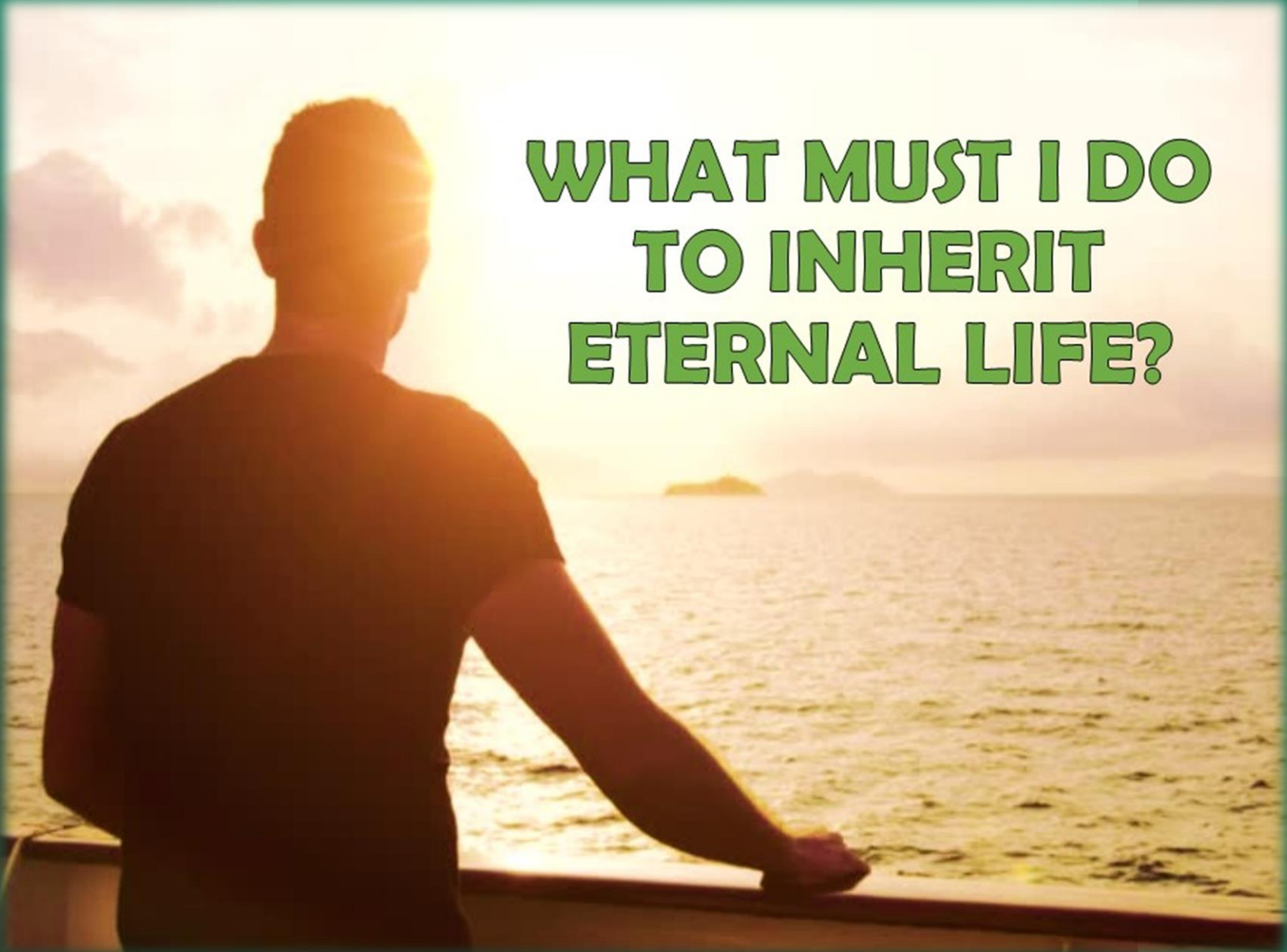
Matthew 19 (NIV)

20 “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” 21 Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Main Point

True discipleship requires more than outward obedience. It calls for complete surrender of our heart and possessions, and trust in God.

A man in silhouette is shown from the back, looking out at the ocean during a sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and casting long shadows. The man's right arm is resting on a ledge or railing. The background shows the sea and distant landmasses under a cloudy sky.

**WHAT MUST I DO
TO INHERIT
ETERNAL LIFE?**

What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life

- The rich young man addresses Jesus as "Teacher," showing respect but not fully recognizing Jesus' divine authority
- His question
 - Reflects a works-based mindset
 - Suggests a desire for a checklist of righteous actions, common in Jewish law
- His emphasis on "good" reveals a misunderstanding of grace, believing that human goodness could earn salvation

What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life

- Jesus points to God's goodness, not human actions, as the standard for eternal life
- The commandments Jesus mentions focus on moral relationships with others, highlighting love & integrity
- The man claims obedience to these commandments, implying outward righteousness
- Jesus doesn't dispute his claim, but He implies there's more to righteousness than legalistic obedience

What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life

- Obedience without heart transformation is incomplete
- God desires inward holiness

16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise. (Psalm 51:16-17 NIV)

What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life

- True obedience flows from love, not mere duty

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. (John 14:15 NIV)

- Outward actions are important, but they should reflect an inward relationship with God

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7 NIV)

What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life

- Even outwardly moral people must examine their hearts for idols, such as wealth or status

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5 NIV)

What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life

- Jesus teaches that the kingdom of God isn't earned by works but given through grace

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)

A silhouette of a person is captured mid-air, jumping from a dark, jagged cliff edge. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with a bright sun partially obscured by clouds, creating a golden glow. The overall scene conveys a sense of freedom and surrender.

Total surrender

Total Surrender

- Jesus' invitation to “sell your possessions” directly confronts the man's attachment to wealth
- Sacrificing wealth is symbolic of surrendering any earthly attachment that takes precedence over God

33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

(Luke 14:33 NIV)

Total Surrender

- Jesus calls the man to follow Him, which requires prioritizing the kingdom over material things
- The man's sadness reveals his unwillingness to let go of his wealth - a barrier to full discipleship

Total Surrender

- The Bible warns that the love of money can hinder a relationship with God

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

(1 Timothy 6:10 NIV)

- Jesus is not condemning wealth, but He is addressing the man's heart & the hold wealth had over him

Total Surrender

- Sacrifice is a hallmark of discipleship, as shown in Jesus' own life & teachings

*34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."
(Mark 8:34 NIV)*

Total Surrender

- Following Christ may require us to give up things we value, such as comfort, status, or relationships

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:8 NIV)

Total Surrender

- True disciples are willing to forsake all for the sake of the kingdom

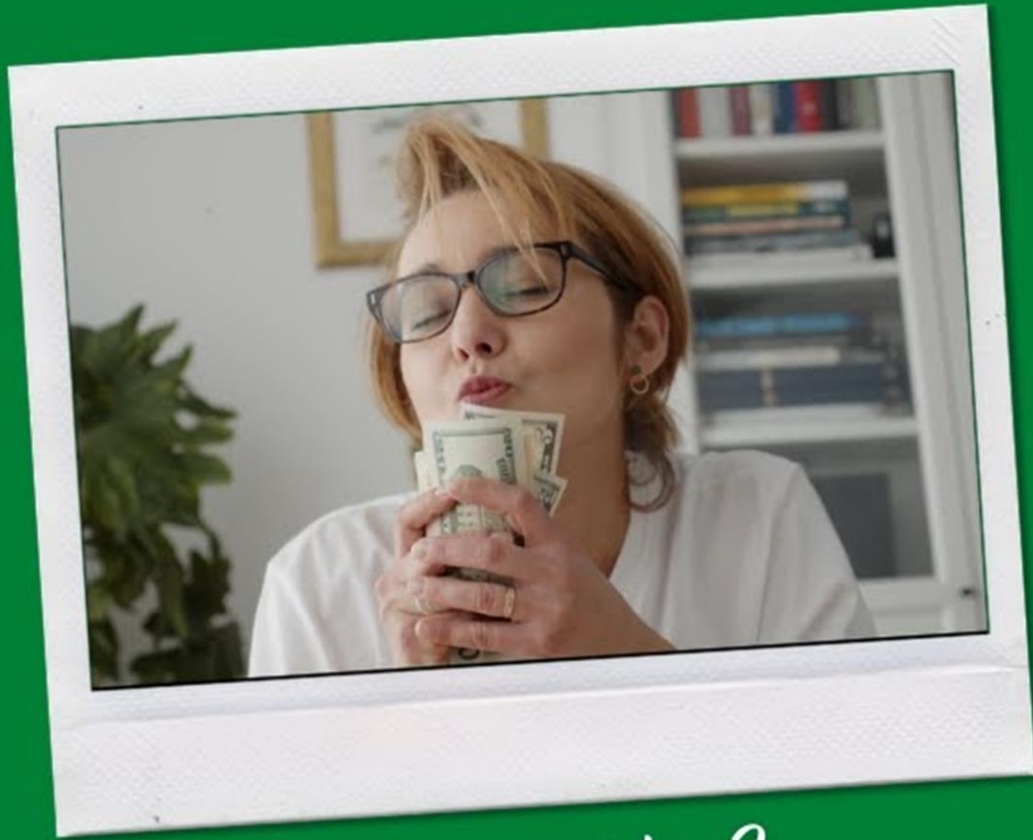
23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. (Luke 9:23 NIV)

Total Surrender

- God's blessings are greater than what we give up, both in this life & in eternity

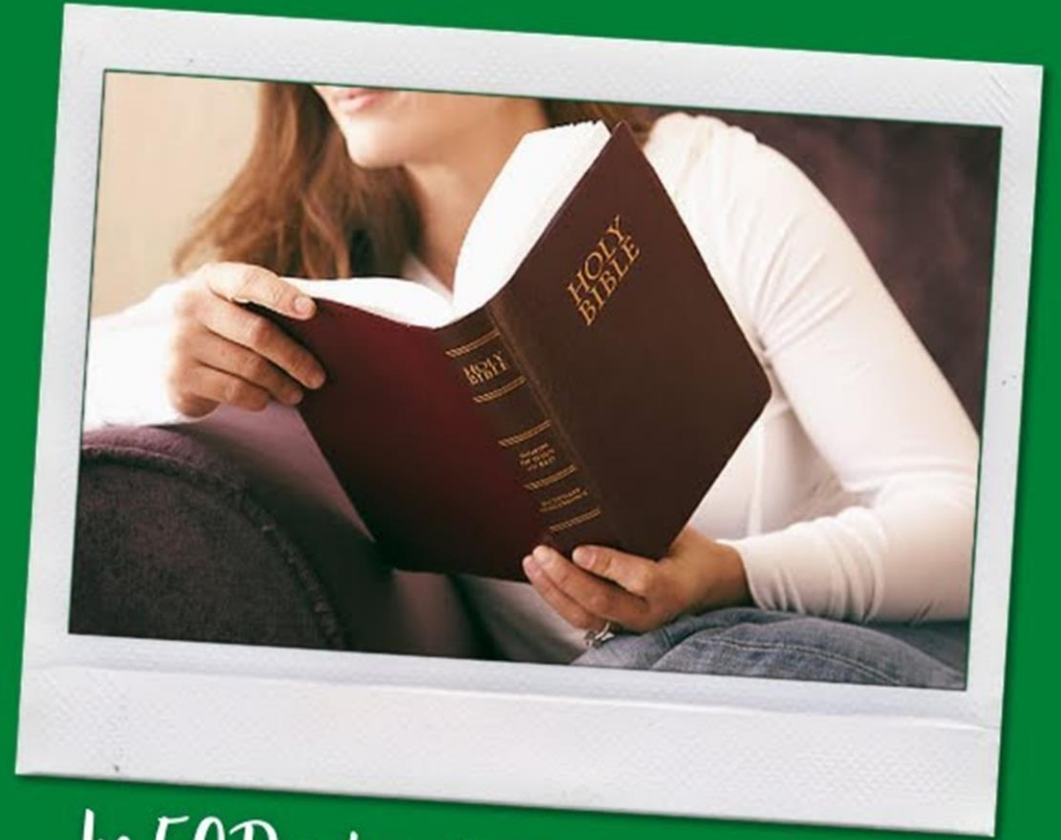
29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and field - along with persecutions - and in the age to come eternal life. (Mark 10:29-30 NIV)

WHERE DO YOU PUT YOUR TRUST?



In your riches?

OR



In GOD who gives you riches?

Where Do You Put Your Trust?

- Jesus highlights how wealth can be an obstacle to entering heaven
- Riches create a false sense of security, leading people to rely on material things rather than God

28 Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

(Proverbs 11:28 NIV)

- Salvation is only possible with God - human efforts, wealth, or status cannot achieve it

Where Do You Put Your Trust?

- Riches can cloud our vision of spiritual needs, leading us to place our trust in temporary things

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

(Matthew 6:19-21 NIV)

Where Do You Put Your Trust?

- Jesus calls for total dependence on God, not on our own resources or achievements

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

(Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

Where Do You Put Your Trust?

- The kingdom of God is about spiritual wealth, not material success

5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? (James 2:5 NIV)

Where Do You Put Your Trust?

- Trusting in God's provision allows us to live freely, without being enslaved by the pursuit of riches

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24 NIV)

Practical Applications

- Just as Jesus focuses on relationships in His commandments, prioritize loving others genuinely, without expectation.
- Don't focus solely on "doing good" but also on becoming more Christlike in character, through humility, patience & love.
- Take steps to declutter your life physically & spiritually, freeing yourself from distractions that hinder your focus on God.

Practical Applications

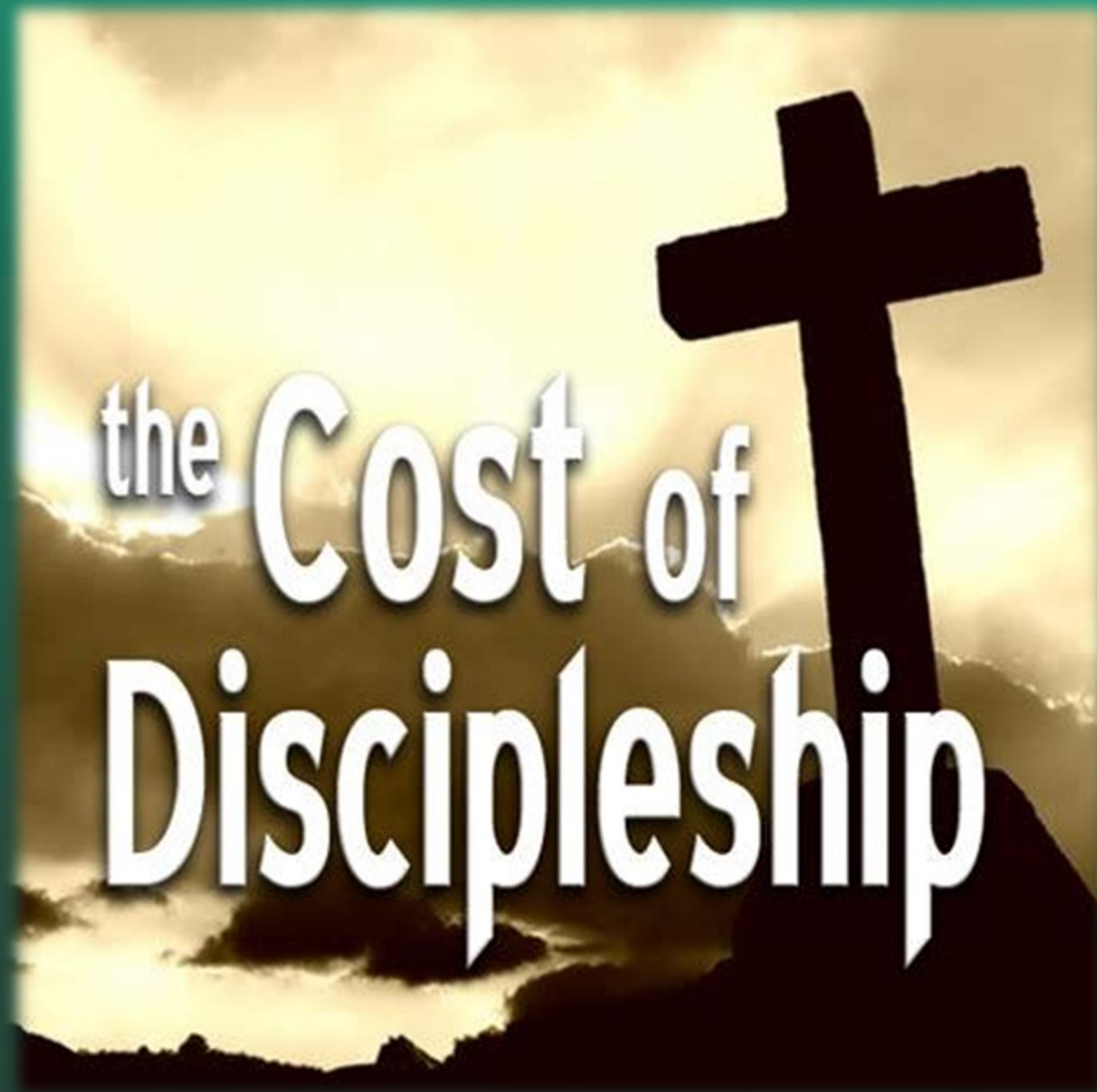
- Instead of focusing on temporary material things, seek to invest in relationships, service & spiritual growth.
- Instead of trusting in your own ability, actively depend on God to provide for your needs.
- Entrust your financial concerns to God, knowing that He is your ultimate provider.

Discussion Questions

- How can we guard against seeing righteousness as mere outward obedience?
- How does God's standard for righteousness differ from human standards?
- What does Jesus' command to sell everything reveal about true discipleship?
- How does Jesus' teaching in this passage challenge our views of wealth and success?

Discussion Questions

- What sacrifices have you personally had to make to follow Christ?
- What steps can we take to ensure we are trusting in God, not in our own resources?



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