



### **Notices:**

Hey wonderful small group leaders, here are a few notices to share with your group!

**Baptisms** // Baptisms are happening at Easter Sunday, please go to [bvc.so/baptisms](http://bvc.so/baptisms) to register your interest. Deadline is 15th March

**Work Party** // Come and give our City Centre Site a refresh - tidying, cleaning, DIY, painting and more, come and lend a hand! Saturday 18th February, City Centre Site. [bvc.so/workparty](http://bvc.so/workparty)

**Job Opening** // We've got a job opening in our team. Head to [bvc.so/jobvacancy](http://bvc.so/jobvacancy)

**DTI Roadtrip** // Be praying for our youth as they go to the DTI roadtrip on Saturday!

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## **The Clash of Kingdoms – The Cost of Discipleship**

**Date:** Sunday 12th February 2023

**Speaker:** Jo Ramdas-Harsia

**Key Verses:** Matthew 8:18-34

### **Talk Summary:**

In Matthew 8:18-22, Jesus challenges those who claim to want to follow him with the cost of doing so.

### **Relationship without cost – what we'd like**

So often we want relationships without the cost. In the secular world we live in, we often hear about the importance of valuing ourselves over others, because sometimes sacrifice in relationships can be depicted as naïve and gullible. We don't want to be personally compromised, to compromise our lifestyle.

Here Jesus challenges that way of thinking. He highlights one of the costs of following Him – the cost of reliance on worldly security and comfort.

### **Cost without Relationship – what we fear**

This worldly thinking about the importance of self stems from a fear of a personal cost without any relationship. The fear that we'll lose ourselves and in return receive nothing back. In worldly relationships we sometimes see that happening – relationships which are meant to be based on love are instead based on exploitation. Because we see that, or perhaps have experienced that for ourselves, we can fear that in our walk with the Lord. So we hold back from Him, put off fully committing everything to Him, because we're not quite sure how it'll turn out. And that's what we see in verse 21, from the 'other disciple' who wants to bury his father.

If the cost is an absolute loyalty to Jesus, what then does Jesus offer us in return?

### **Cost and Relationship – what He offers**

The things we value are the things we've chosen to pay the greatest price for. Jesus has already paid the cost for His relationship with us (**John 15:33**).

In Matthew 8:23-27, we see Jesus lead his disciples into a storm, but through that they learn more about His character and nature, and therefore have the opportunity to place more trust and faith in Him. They see Jesus for who he is – truly man and truly God.

Next in verses 28-34, Matthew reveals even more of the nature of Jesus and His power and authority. He also reveals the intention of the enemy – to kill and destroy (see what happens to the pigs!), and demonstrates His ultimate authority over the enemy.

But the amazing power of Jesus and His invitation to an intimate relationship with Him does not always make people feel comfortable and not everyone is prepared to pay the cost of following Him as we see from the reaction of the local people.

### **Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant your group)**

1. What does a relationship cost? Does the value of that person to you personally determine the cost that you are willing to pay for that relationship? What are you willing to give, to sacrifice for that person? What are they worth to you?
2. What are some of the costs of following Jesus? Do you have any personal stories to share?
3. What do we gain in our relationship with Jesus? (Again encourage personal stories here) Is the cost worth the connection?
4. How have you seen Jesus' power and authority demonstrated in your life?
5. Do our lives demonstrate that we have chosen to 'pick up our crosses' and follow Him? Are we currently being challenged to do this in any particular area of our lives?
6. To what extent are you held back by fear, cultural expectations or control?

### **Worship**

Small group Worship & Prayer resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship)