

The Cost of Discipleship

Pastor Brad Wetherell

April 19, 2026

Matthew 16:21-28



**THE ORCHARD**

### **Sermon Questions**

1. When God doesn't act the way we think He should, or when life takes a turn we didn't plan for, how does that usually affect our trust in Him?
2. Our culture tells us that a "good life" means being comfortable, successful, and in control. If that's the goal, why does following Jesus feel like such a "bad deal" sometimes? Which of those worldly goals is hardest for us to give up?
3. In what specific area of our life (our career, our kids, our schedule, etc.) is it hardest to say, "Lord, You decide, not me"? What is it about "letting go" in that specific area that feels so scary?
4. Think of a time when we felt like following Jesus might "break" our safety net, maybe it meant risking our reputation at work, losing a bit of financial comfort, or having a hard conversation we didn't want to have. What was going through our mind during that struggle, and what did we learn about our heart?
5. If we were to honestly look at our calendar and our stress levels from this past week, what would they suggest we are currently "investing" in or "worshipping" the most? What would it look like to "deny ourselves" in that schedule this coming week?
6. If we were 100% sure right now that our future was totally secure in God's hands and that He already loves us perfectly, which of our current anxieties would lose their power over us?
7. When we feel tired or "worn down" by the pressure of life, what is it about Jesus specifically His life, His death for us, or His resurrection that makes us say, "Yes, He is worth the cost"?