

THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

MATTHEW 8:18-22

“Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ.”

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I. A Strenuous Call

II. An Urgent Call

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. Do you find it easier to give directions or follow directions?

Into the Bible

2. In verse 21 Jesus seemingly challenges a follower to make a difficult decision between family obligation and discipleship. Luke records similar conversations where Christ discourages potential disciples. What is Christ's advice to them (and us) in Luke 14:25-33? In Luke 9:57-62, what disqualifies someone from being a true follower of Christ?

3. Some people have argued that Christ's use of the title of "Son of Man" when referring to himself (81 times in the New Testament) shows that He did not consider himself to be divine. Read Matthew 9:6, Luke 9:22, and Mark 14:61-62 to see if that idea is valid. What does Matthew 20:25-28 indicate is the reason for Jesus to choose that title?

Application

4. In verse 20 Christ warns a would-be follower that "the Son of Man has no place to lay his head". Itinerant rabbis were not uncommon in Israel, but this speaks again of the humility of Jesus as man. If you go back to Matthew 6:25-34 you can find the source of Christ's security in a situation that would make most of us very anxious—homelessness. How then do we learn to follow His example? (Philippians 4:19)

For Families

5. Talk with your children about how important it is to follow Christ.