

# A PRICE to Pay

Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Luke 9:23-26

## DISCUSS

Churches can either be “keepers of the aquarium” or “fishers of men.” They can be content to just maintain the church by going through the motions of church life and ministries, or they can be willing to change, without compromising the Message of Christ, to effectively fish for people to tell them about the Savior Jesus Christ. The Great Commission of Christ is for Christians to go fish for men and women and introduce them to Jesus Christ, but in doing so we must be willing to pay a price. This is an important thing we need to consider if we want to be a church with church members that follow Jesus. Read Luke 9:23-26.

### The price of SACRIFICE: “Deny himself”

- What is self-denial?
- What have you given up in order to follow the Lord? Have you given up something for the Lord, who suffered, got rejected, and died for you, to the point that it hurts you, which describes what true sacrificial self-denial is all about?
- Verse 25 boils down to this idea: lose now to gain later. Is your church willing to pay the price of sacrifice and do what it takes to follow Jesus and win people to Christ? Are you willing to pay the price of sacrifice?
- As a follower of Jesus and part of the body of Christ, what sacrifices are you willing to make for the Lord? Are you willing to wake up earlier to serve the Lord, to set aside time and resources for Him, to risk your reputation and business for the sake of Christ?

### The price of RESPONSIBILITY: “Take up his cross daily”

- There should be no time when a Christian is not a Christian. What possible things could happen if the inconsistencies of people who say they are followers of Christ are not willing to pay the responsibility to live out daily Christlikeness that is required?
- As a Christian, what are your personal responsibilities that you cannot expect God or the church to do for you?

### The price of COMMITMENT: “Follow Me”

- To follow Christ is to identify with Him. Do you find it hard to identify with Christ in your situation? Why?
- What could be the reasons why those professing to be followers of Christ find it difficult to identify with Him?
- What is the contrast in v. 26 between receiving glory now in the eyes of the world or receiving God’s glorious approval in the future?
- What type of reputation and glory do you want, the one given by the world or the one given by the Heavenly Father?
- As a parent, son/daughter, student, employer, employee, or even as a retiree, do you live as someone who really follows Jesus, even at the cost of your job, reputation, advancement, or friendships?

## REFLECT

To take our church to the next level, we must collectively—every member of the body—must be willing to pay the price asked of us to truly make an impact in the community and in our various spheres of influence. Are you willing to pay the price of sacrifice, responsibility, and commitment to the Lord? Examine your reasons for your answer.

## PRAY

Heavenly Father, Your Son Jesus Christ sacrificed so much in order to save me from my sin and give me the gift of eternal life. May His love and sacrifice remind me all the time that whatever sacrifices I might make for Him is nothing compared to what He has already done for me. Thank You for Your lovingkindness, grace, and blessings that I enjoy everyday. Thank You for Your faithfulness to our church these many years in spite of Your people’s shortcoming at times. May I, as part of the church, be willing to pay the price to bring glory and honor to Your name. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.