

## **“What’s the Cost?”**

*Series: God is Closer Than You Think Week 6*

Markie Watson

The Woodside Church

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Discipleship. A big buzz word we have been talking about lately on Thursday nights. Watching these incredible students, has encouraged my soul deeply. The Lord has been so gracious to me by allowing me to love these students. May we give them another round of applause for having the courage to speak today.

Students- your Woodside family is so blessed by your presence here and we want you to know that today Heaven is roaring with celebration. Amen? Getting back to our buzz word, discipleship- a disciple of Jesus is a dedicated follower of Christ- someone who learns from Him- adopts His teachings and strives to live according to his example. Our discipleship series was appropriately named what’s the cost? This charge will also be appropriately taking that title.

So what’s the cost- as many of the students can tell you- as many of them referenced the high cost of discipleship in their statements, the cost of following Jesus is our life; and the price is so worth it.

Mark chapter 8:34-36 states

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. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world yet forfeit their soul.

Discipleship has a cost doesn’t it? Jesus says what good is it to gain the whole world yet forfeit our soul?

In this discipleship series the Lord put it on our hearts to create a common statement that would connect our weeks of study together but would also serve as a tag line to remember the lesson topic. The saying goes I surrender\_\_\_\_\_; I gain \_\_\_\_\_. Each week we studied specific characteristics connected to being a disciple. Today I end with the ultimate statement. I surrender my life; I gain eternity. Surrendering your life may look like putting Jesus before everything else- inviting him in to every room in your life, surrendering your life may look like getting rid of the dividers we put up- surrendering is going ALL in. Today students you took a leap. A leap into life everlasting with the King of universe. He holds everything in His hands. The world will entice you, it will lure you in with all of its false promises. Quick fixes, earthly “satisfactions”, decisions lead by our flesh rather than wisdom imparted by the Lord. Ultimately its “so called gifts” are empty. Leaving us wanting more. Every supporter in this congregation will tell you- those offers will come and go- but it is Jesus Christ who is forever. Not one earthly offer has ever

brought me even a fraction of the satisfaction that sitting with the Lord on a random Tuesday has given me. Discipleship has a great cost; but the investment in Jesus-has gifted me 10 fold. Evidence of that is I get to stand here today. Getting to watch how Jesus loves and impacts each of you is a gift- a gift and encouragement to all of us! Having been broken before, having followed my flesh before- having been let down by the world over and over. Despite those wrong turns- he turns my face back to His- giving me fullness, acceptance, satisfaction, hope, completeness, forgiveness, growth and a family to do it all beside. This is what you have to gain today.

Today stepping into the fullness of a relationship with Jesus; confirming the vows made at Baptism-equips you and empowers you to be a missionary. You now can go out- giving your LIFE to Christ- being a light for Him- sharing His love-studying His word- connecting to your brothers and sisters in Christ and becoming a window to a Heavenly Father who gave you the greatest gift of all. When being a disciple is hard-take a look at the love letter you wrote God today- take a look back on the encouragement you will receive from your Woodside family today and remind yourself all over again- when I surrender my life; I gain everything in Jesus name. Discipleship may not be easy- but it is worth every bit of the cost.