

The Cost of Your Cross

God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

Every day we make decisions about how we will prioritize our lives. Often these are small decisions, weighted easily through rote mental practices. Some however are larger decisions, requiring lengthy emotional, spiritual, and logical exploration. Regardless of the scope of the decision, the ones that involve other people are the ones that reveal the most about ourselves.

1. Describe an interaction with another person you had recently where you had to make a decision that affected them somehow.
2. Describe how your faith may (or may not) have play a role in that decision.
3. What other ways could you have made that decision, and how might they have affected you for the better?

Book

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and his teachings are getting more and more challenging. This lesson is also an instruction to weigh the costs of following him.

1. In what ways does Jesus' use of the word 'hate' (v26) create such a striking impression?
2. How do the supporting analogies provide context and further gravity to the decision before the would-be disciples?
3. Imagine yourself in the place of those present with Jesus at this time. What would your thoughts turn to when faced with Jesus' challenge to you?

Took

Taking up our cross is more than just a decision, but rather many decisions that affect our lives in a myriad of ways. They become actions that are a consequence of our commitment to Jesus. However choosing to really pick up your cross can mean making choices that will be costly.

1. What are some costs due to the decisions you make in following a life in Christ?
2. When these challenges get to be too much, what kind of support do you typically need?
3. What is one particular way you are gifted at supporting others that you could apply this week? Who could especially use that type of support?