

The Cost of Discipleship

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I. Introduction. Text: Matthew 13:36-38, John 12:24.

II. We are “seeds.” If you are a child of the king Jesus, you are a seed among other things.

III. Jesus is the farmer.

A. Much good seed is not available to the farmer.

B. We must be available to serve wherever God wants us.

IV. The field is the world.

V. Unless the seed dies, it abides alone. If it dies, it bears much fruit.

A. Many believers abide alone because they are unwilling to die.

B. Death means to relinquish control. (Ecclesiastes 8:8)

C. We have to be open-handed about our possessions, activities and relationships.

D. We must daily take up the cross.

Application questions:

1. How does the seed illustration help us to see that we are not in control of our ministry?

2. What does it mean to die to oneself?

3. What areas of your life may God be calling you to die to yourself? Spend some time in prayer and write your reflections below.
