

# The Cost of Discipleship

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I. Introduction.

A. Fruitfulness costs us a cross.

B. Text: Matthew 13:36-38, John 12:23-26.

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.

IV. The field is the world.

A. The seed does not choose where it goes, the sower does.

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

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

A. Death means to relinquish control and hold life with an open hand.

B. The cross helps us say no to self.

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

D. Every test we pass simply qualifies us for a tougher test.

E. We must ask God for grace to take up the cross. (Luke 9:23)

## **Application questions:**

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

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2. What does it mean to die to oneself?

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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.

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