



40 Days of FAITH



Faith In The Face of a Huge Cost

MAIN THING

Faith that COSTS us Nothing is WORTH Nothing

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:1-19, 2 Corinthians 11:21-29, Acts 20:22-24

ICEBREAKER

Have you ever had to do something that had a major cost to it? Was it worth it? What was your experience?

OPENING THOUGHT

"Nothing worth anything is ever free." Have you heard that before? One of the things that draws many to Christianity is the idea of salvation being a "free gift". Many see this as get out jail free card, meaning they can live however they want, and they'll never face consequences. For those of us who have been walking with Christ for some time, we know that the gift of salvation is free, but the life of a Christian can be very hard. When faith doesn't have a cost, just how powerful is that faith?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. In Acts 9:1-19, we read about the conversion of Saul to Paul. The part of this story we never talk about is Ananias. He was a believer of The Way, and God asked him to go meet with a man who was terrorizing and imprisoning believers. He was asked to take his life into his own hands. Have you ever felt God calling you to do something dangerous, or potentially life threatening? What was your response? How would you respond now if God called you there?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-29. Here, we see all the things that Paul had to go through to truly follow after God. What are your thoughts when reading this? Could you handle these situations? So many of us hit a rough day or week, and we wonder why God would allow us to "suffer" so much. How, do you think, Paul continued in his faith when all of this was going on around him?

LIFE APPLICATION

Because Paul left the Jewish faith, his life was always in danger when anywhere around Israel, much less Jerusalem. Read Acts 20:22-24. Here, Paul demonstrates his faith by going into hostile territory, despite the apparent danger to his life. How far will you go with your faith? Will danger hold you back? Embarrassment? Maybe you simply don't want to be uncomfortable? Whatever it is, it's not enough to keep us from sharing Christ. Eternity is at stake. Count the cost this week as you go throughout your daily schedule. Be open for opportunities, and don't back down in the face of fear.

CHALLENGE

It's so easy to just say that something is "too hard". As a group, encourage each other to do the hard things. Don't back down based on fear or difficulty. Define what those things are in each of your lives, and make moves this week to do them.