Cost of Discipleship (Mt. 8:18-22; Lk. 9:57-62)

1. This episode features three follower candidates.
   a. The uncalled volunteer.
   b. The called procrastinator.
   c. The called hindsighter.

2. A scribe expressed his unconditional willingness to follow Christ (Mt. 8:19; Lk. 9:57).
   a. As a 1st person singular, future active indicative, this statement is an “I Will” statement.
   c. An “I Will” statement may be a prideful disregard for the plan of God (Jas. 4:13-15).
   d. An “I Will” statement may be followed by regrets (Lk. 14:28-30).

3. Temporal-life impoverishment is a stumbling block for certain followers (Lk. 9:58).
   a. Loss of possessions and homelessness may be the perfect will of God the Father for the believer’s life (Jn. 6:38).
   b. The apostles followed the example of Christ in this regard (1st Cor. 4:11).

4. Jesus turned to one who had not expressed such a willingness, and commanded him to follow unconditionally (Lk. 9:59-60).
   a. This man was willing to follow “someday.”
   b. The uncertainties of “someday” turn first things into only things.
   c. Jesus Christ contrasted the dead with their “somedays” and the living with today’s urgency for evangelism (Lk. 9:60).

5. Slightly different from the “someday” follower is the “timeout” follower (Lk. 9:61-62).
   a. This man allowed the second man to influence his thinking (1st Cor. 15:33). He’s already serving, but comes to think of his previous goodbyes as insufficient (Phil. 3:13).
   b. This man has not yet begun plowing, but has put his hand to the plow (Lk. 9:62).
      1) An intention has been stated and a good work begun, but the follow through must take place (2nd Cor. 8:6).
      2) An accurate recognition of the price to pay must take place (Lk. 14:25-33).
   c. The initial feel for the implements of divine labor may spark a longing for what was let go (Mt. 19:27; Mk. 10:28).

Follow Me by Ira Stanphill

Verse 1
I traveled down a lonely road,
And no one seemed to care,
The burden on my weary back
Had bowed me to despair;
I oft complained to Jesus
How folks were treating me.
And then I heard Him say so tenderly:
"My feet were also weary
Upon Calvary's road,
The cross became so heavy,
I fell beneath the load,
Be faithful, weary pilgrim,
The morning I can see
Just lift your cross
and follow close to Me."

Verse 2
"I work so hard for Jesus," I often boast and say
"I've sacrificed a lot of things to walk the narrow way;
I gave up fame and fortune
I'm worth a lot to Thee!"
And then I hear Him gently say to me:
"I left the throne of glory
And counted it but loss,
My hands were nailed in anger
Upon a cruel cross;
But now we'll make the journey
With your hand safe in Mine,
So lift your cross
and follow close to me."

Verse 3
O Jesus, if I die upon
A foreign field some day,
'Twould be no more than love demands
No less could I repay;
"No greater love hath mortal man
Than for a friend to die"
These are the words He gently spoke to me;
"If just a cup of water
I place within your hand,
Then just a cup of water
is all that I demand."
But if by death to living
They can Thy glory see,
I'll take my cross and follow close to Thee.