



# COSTLY

## EXAMINING OUR JOURNEY

**From Worship to Weekday - March 14**

Because of the work of Jesus, we have given invaluable blessings that cannot be measured. However, we always must consider that following Jesus costs us something too. To become one of his, we must become obedient, obedient to the point of death. As we go through lent and reflect on what it cost Jesus to rescue us from sin, death, and the devil, we also take time to size up the cost of this journey.

### **CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER**

- 1) How did you see God at work this past week?
- 2) What has God been teaching you in his Word this week?
- 3) Recall a memory of something that happened in the dark when you were a child.

### **Confession**

Christians lose independence as they realize that they cannot “do it” on their own. They may give up status and more for the sake of the cross. God invites us to confession, where we go to him with all of our faults, all of our sins, all of our imperfections. In turn, this reminds and trains us not to think too highly of ourselves. When we do this, we can confidently say, “No me, but Christ in me.”

### **Walking in the Light John 1:5-19**

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

## GOING DEEPER

How do you define confession? How is confession sometimes used for the wrong reasons?

In the sermon we heard that confession is about emptying ourselves by telling the truth, admitting our mistakes, being transparent about our struggles. There is no expectation of reward. It is confronting personal failure, with genuine regret, even sorrow for our sin. Why is doing this so hard?

When we confess we feel the cost of our wrongdoing. Which of these "costs", if you are honest and transparent with yourself and others, is the greatest cost for you? Is it your pride, any self-reliance, your reputation, or self-sufficiency. Something else?

Confession is a cost we bear to receive the full benefits of the cost Jesus bore for us. So, why do we not confess more often and freely?

Can you live in both the worlds of light and darkness? Why or why not?

The Bible says "If we say we have fellowship with him (God) while we walk in darkness, we lie." We are lying! About what? If it's not the darkness part, about what are we lying?

What does it mean to not be in fellowship with God?

When you sin, you are separating yourself from God and you and God are on two different paths. And where do those paths lead? So why is sin such a big deal?

When God's law accuses us of sin, we have two options. One is denial (verse 8), what is the other in verse 9.

What are common ways Christians sometimes justify or minimize sin?

If we say we have no sin, we are lying. But for the statement "we have no sin" to be true, it would mean God must be lying. So, we've completely turned this upside down. God is speaking truth and we call him the liar. And we, who are lying, defend ourselves as speaking the truth. What is needed in these times when we lie, defend and deceive ourselves?

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How can those close to us in the church, help to bring our sin into the light? Why do we hesitate to do this with one another?

Why do you think confession is often at the beginning of our worship services?

If we own our guilt, we will own God's promise of forgiveness. If we throw ourselves at God's mercy, mercy is exactly what we will receive. Why is that hard for people to receive?

What happens when you confess with an open hand? What happens when you confess with your fingers still clenched around a bit of your sin?

By not receiving the forgiveness and mercy God has for you when you confess, you are paying for your own sin. Does God demand two payments for sin? k

God will cleanse you from all unrighteousness... ALL! What big mistake in your life needs that promise?

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!*

## **CONNECT WITH GOD IN PRAYER**

Spend time in confession and praise for the forgiveness you receive through Christ Jesus!