

January 19<sup>th</sup>

*Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"*  
-Matthew 19:27

In our day, when sin is strictly equated with selfishness, the question Peter poses in Matthew 19:27 must spring from a heart that is completely depraved. "What's in it for me?" is most certainly a question destined to elicit a sharp rebuke from Jesus. And yet no rebuke comes. In fact, in verses 28-30, Jesus responds to this question with a great promise. So how do we make sense of this? Our difficulty with this question might come from a failure to distinguish 'selfishness' from self-interest. Jesus appeals to our self-interest with His promises, but demands that our selfishness be destroyed in His death. Given His teachings about discipleship, it is clear He desires all who might follow Him to make an informed decision, or as He puts it, to "count the cost". As Jesus reminded many who came to Him, those who have misconceptions about discipleship will ultimately falter from the path. But for the one who understands what he must lose in light of what he might gain, there is clarity and commitment. Jesus wanted Peter and all those listening (including us) to understand the promise of new life. Sin is not desire, it is desire misplaced. Maybe we have failed to grasp the immensity of Jesus' promise. Maybe the poverty we often experience in our spiritual lives stems from our failure to remember the richness of God's call. But to truly follow Jesus, you must understand what there will be for you. If you do not, then the longings you were created with will never be satisfied in the One they were created to seek.

Father, open our eyes to the glorious promise of eternal life, so that we will renounce the things of this world, and be completely satisfied with Christ.