**Cost management** in Kubernetes is about **tracking, controlling, and optimizing resource usage** to reduce unnecessary spending. Since Kubernetes dynamically schedules workloads across nodes, it's easy to overprovision CPU, memory, or storage, leading to **unused or idle resources**. Effective cost management involves using **resource requests and limits** to avoid waste, **autoscaling** to match demand, and **monitoring tools** (like Prometheus + Grafana, Kubecost, or cloud-native billing tools) to analyze usage by **namespace, workload, or team**. By understanding where and how resources are consumed, teams can make smarter decisions, such as rightsizing workloads or shifting to spot instances, to **maximize efficiency and control cloud costs**.