



“The Cost of Following Jesus”

Luke 14: 25-33 *Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.*

Opening Prayer

Precious Father, I know that your word says that "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." It is my prayer that I will finish what you have started through me and that the call of following you will always be noticed by you alone, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in Jesus' Name, amen!

Observation

Following Jesus has its privileges - but also its cost, as verses 25 to 32 reveal. Jesus is not calling people or want a blind, naive commitment that excepted only blessings. As builder estimates costs or a king evaluates military strength, so people must consider what Jesus expects of his followers before they commit their lives to him.

- The cost, Jesus wanted, his **complete surrender to him**
- Any commitment of following God must dissociate you from everything and anything that you love the most. **Verse 26** says *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

- This can be explained in a such way that our natural affections must be sanctified and lifted to the level of the divine love.
- **One must prefer God or love Him more than all else to be saved** - Matthew 22: 37 - Jesus said to Him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
- This tells me that **“God first is the motto of the Bible.”**

Explanation

Jesus goes further and says in verse 27 that And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. What did a cross mean for people of Jesus’ day? This phrase probably alarmed Jesus’ listeners. Usually condemned criminals were forced to carry their own crossest, but **Jesus laid down His life voluntarily. He asks us to do the same.**

- You cannot be Jesus’ disciple if you don’t prefer God and Christ to all others
- You cannot be Jesus’ disciple if you don’t bear the cross
- You cannot be Jesus’ disciple if you don’t follow Christ always
- And you must follow Him daily, not weekly or for a while

Most of the time, people or the multitude were often attracted by Jesus’ miracles and expected Him to establish an earthy kingdom. But, what we forgot, is that God is looking for a quality and not a quantity when it comes to relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. In other words, we must prefer God’s will to our owns.

- **We must recognize and anticipate that personal discipleship and commitment to Jesus can result in divisions and rejection**
- The matter of entering the Kingdom of God must be through a strict violent and determination builded in the true discipleship.
- We must recognize that the Kingdom of God requires a highest commitment and we must be ready to forsake any personal goal that hinders our entering into it
- The Book of Matthew 16: 24-26 help us to understand and accept that discipleship means forsaking all selfish personal ambition and pick us our cross

Application

Following Christ may need you to reconsider how much you have give in in tradition, other beliefs, personal or public values, how you approach laws and policies.

Christ was still on His final trip to Jerusalem to complete His work after the three days of Lk. 13:32-33. He passed through Galilee and Samaria into Judea to die (Lk. 17:11; 18:31), going

through Jericho (Lk. 18:35; 19:1) And it happened on the way to Jerusalem, people were following Him for what they can get with no intention to know Him.

Following Jesus has its own privileges but also its costs, and here are the four costs to consider:

1. **The cost of service** (*Verse 26*) - *If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.* Jesus' followers must serve Him before all others. The disciples of Jesus are the very good and best example that we must follow.
2. **The cost of sacrifice** (*Verse 27*) - *And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.* Jesus' followers must subordinate their own interest to the interest of Christ.
3. **The cost of self - assessment** (*Verse 28-30*) - *For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it - lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'?.* Jesus' followers must be fully in touch with who they are and how Christ has equipped and empowered them to do what He asks.
4. **The cost of strategy** (*Verse 31-33*) - *Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.* Jesus' followers must think through the issues and have the courage to act in the face of uncertainty.
 - The Best Christian vote with their lives / or I can say the best leaders vote with their lives
 - When leaders vote with their lives, their followers gain all kinds of security
 - Jesus is calling for commitment both screened the uncommitted and attracted the committed.
 - There is cost for following Jesus - and I am calling you to reevaluate how much and how far you have gone with Him.