

## Study #7 Counting the Cost

In this study we take one last look at your decision to participate in the local body and the life in Christ he offers us (whether by baptism, or placing membership if you've already been Biblically baptized).

### 1– Luke 14: 28-30 Counting the Cost

**A-** Jesus is looking for disciples who want to make a life long decision to follow him. This decision is a sacred one, for you are making a covenant with God!

**B-** How are you feeling about your decision to be baptized into Christ, joining the local Body of Christ?

**C–** For those placing membership (having been baptized Biblically already)- How are you feeling about joining this local Body of Christ and your decision to fully participate in the life in Christ according to the scriptures?

### 2- There will be challenges!

**A- Matt. 4: 1-3. Spiritual Challenges.** Satan came after Jesus with intense temptation following his baptism. God used these however, to strengthen Jesus even more! Challenges are painful. We must count the cost of going through spiritual challenges in a godly way, and not turning to worldly pleasures for relief.

\* In what ways can you imagine the evil one coming after you?

**B- Relationship challenges.** Where there are sinners, there will be sin. Relationships can build up but they can also hurt us. Matt. 5: 23– 24. Relationships will need humility and talking with one another and possibly the help of others to work out hurt feelings. Matt. 6: 14– 15 Relationships will need forgiveness. This can be disillusioning spiritually when we are hurt by another Christian.

\* Are you committed to working out any differences or hurt feelings with brothers and sisters in a godly way?

**C– Sin Challenges. James 1: 13-15** Sinful desires come from within. Through the Spirit we continue to put these to death. Desire leads to sin which leads to full-blown sin and then eventually, spiritual death. It is important to be open with sin and deal with it at the temptation stage and early stages of sin.

\* Which sinful desires and sins do you feel most vulnerable?

**D- 2 Peter 2: 20-22. The Challenge to Quit.** There will be temptations to go back to your former way of life. Discouragement or failure can tempt us to quit. You are making a decision not to quit on Jesus!

### **3- Final Thoughts/Counting the Cost**

A– Is there anything in the studies you find yourself disagreeing with, or needing to talk through? Is there any aspect of a life in Christ that you'd like to study out more in the scriptures before being baptized/placing membership?

B– For those getting baptized- Are you ready to make Jesus Lord, repenting of sin, and to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins? Are you ready to commit to the life in Christ in the local body?

C- For those placing membership- Are you committing to Jesus as Lord, faithfully repenting of sin in your walk with God, and faithfully following his Spirit in your daily life? Are you ready to commit to the life in Christ in the local body and join with us in spreading the gospel to our community?

D- For both: Are you excited about the powerful life in Christ that Jesus came to bring us all?