

## Christ's School of Discipleship

Luke 9:23, 57-62 [The Cost of Discipleship]

“Walking with Jesus,” requires discipleship. The word *“disciple”* means “follower / learner” (a *disciplined* one).

Don't confuse salvation with discipleship. Every disciple is a believer but not every believer is a disciple.

- SALVATION is a **gift** received by trusting Christ has your Savior. The call to salvation is *“Come unto me...”*
- DISCIPLESHIP is following Christ after you've come to Him for salvation. The call of discipleship is *“Come after me...”* (v. 23). We come TO Christ for salvation and come AFTER Christ in discipleship.

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6. Luke 14:28-33—UNRE... commitment. A disciple has counte  
the cost and is willing... discipleship. Is there any  
thing... ps you f... in the world...  
thing... could f... of so, t...  
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**I. The IMI** (vs. 27-58)

A. His C... will allow...  
goes... for someone willing to follo... Christ

1. He had good intentions, but he failed to count the cost.
2. Jesus put this man’s commitment to a test (v. 58).

B. His OVERSIGHT (v. 58). They wouldn’t be lodging at the Jerusalem Hilton.

1. Jesus wanted this man to know he may have to leave his “comfort zone.” Jesus left His comfort zone!
2. The value in discipleship is reflected in the cost!

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ILLUS: An old dilapidated house is not guarded and has no security system because there is nothing of value inside. But, a house with guarded gates, bolted doors, and a security alarm system says there is something valuable inside. THE MORE VALUABLE AN ITEM IS, THE MORE DIFFICULT IT WILL BE TO GET TO IT.

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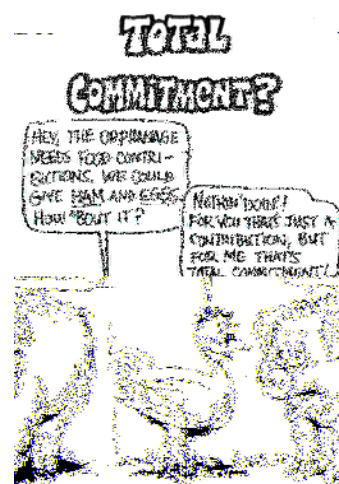
- If being a disciple of Christ were easy, more people would be doing it.

C. His OBSCURITY (v. 59). He's gone! He decides the cost of following Jesus is too high. He was willing to follow Christ as long as he could have his "Beauty Rest" mattress and it didn't cost him anything.

➤ ILLUS: The Chicken and the Pig.

➤ ILLUS: Grady Lemons and Tolbert Moore were ridin' the hay wagon down a hill with some of their buddies. However, when the wagon hit an overgrown bier patch, everybody jumped off except Grady and Tolbert.

When the wagon finally came to a stop, Grady said to Tolbert, as they were pulling the throne needles out of their hands, "You sure find out who really wants to ride the wagon when you hit the bier batch."



➤ A few years ago ~~The Week~~ news magazine ran a report of a man delivering pizzas in Tampa who was shot in the leg by a would-be mugger. He went on to make four more deliveries before going to the hospital emergency room! (*The Week*, June 17, 2005, p. 8). If a guy will do that delivering pizzas, why can't we be that dedicated in delivering the Gospel to the lost?

## II. The **INSINCERE** response (vs. 59-60).

A. The DEMAND of discipleship—*"Follow me..."* Right NOW. Change directions. Put your foot down as near as where I put My foot down.

- B. The DELAY of discipleship (v. 59). He was making an excuse to put off discipleship.
- The truth is, his daddy was not dead.
    - Dead people cannot bury dead people. JOKE- Two drunks fell into an open grave. “You can’t get out of here.”
  - Jesus was saying, “You who are alive (spiritually) take care of the things that pertain to spiritual life (v. 60—“*Go and preach the gospel to all the world*”) and those who are spiritually dead tend to the dead.”
- C. The DEAFNESS OF HIS HEART (“ME FIRST.”)
- Christ was calling him to follow Him.
  - Christ was calling him to be a disciple. The problem was not that Jesus was not a “Master” or the “Lord.” The problem was that he insisted on “me first.”

### III. The INDECISIVE response (v. 61-62)

- A. His RESOLVE—“*Lord, I will follow you*”
- B. His RESERVATION—His resolve began to DISSOLVE...
  - He amended his resolve with “BUT...”
  - I’ll give an offering, BUT don’t expect me to tithe.
  - I’ll teach a S.S. class, BUT don’t expect me to be here every Sunday.
  - I’ll sing in the choir, BUT don’t expect me to be at practice.
  - I’ll be an usher, BUT don’t expect me to be here every service. I don’t want to be “tied down.” Jesus was nailed down to a cross for you, and you can’t be “tied down” to serving Him?
- C. His REBUKE (v. 62). His request seemed reasonable. But, Jesus knew that if he went back to his family, his father might try to “talk him out of discipleship.” Momma would pour on the tears.

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While Ron Coale was in our Bible Institute he came to me one time and said, “Pastor, I’m quitting.” I asked Ron, “Why are you

telling me? I didn't call you to preach. God called you, therefore you need to tell Him you're quitting. Let's get on our knees right now, and you pray and tell God you're quitting." Ron thought for a minute and said, "I can't do that. I'll keep on preaching."

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➤ Jesus likened discipleship to plowing.

1. Hard work.
  2. Must look forward. No looking back (v. 51).
    - Lot's wife looked back to Sodom.
    - Children of Israel in the wilderness looked back to Egypt.
    - John Mark looked back and deserted Paul and Barnabas.
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In 1519 Hernando Cortes lead an expedition from Spain into Mexico. The Spanish governor gave him 11 ships and 700 men. After months of travel, the 11 ships landed in Veracruz. After the men unloaded the ships, Cortes burned all 11 of them. With no means of retreat Cortez's army had only one direction to move, forward into the Mexican interior. Cortez understood the price of commitment—and he paid it.

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**SUMMATION:** When a 747 passenger plane is speeding down the runway, there is a point where staying on the ground is no longer an option. When the pilot crosses that line, he is committed to being airborne. Either he will take off or a crash will occur. There are church members who are still taxiing on the runway, but never getting airborne.

We need to see costs to be a disciple of Christ in the light of the price Jesus paid on the cross to save you. Jesus paid it all; All to Him I owe!

- HAVE YOU COME TO CHRIST FOR SALVATION?
- WILL YOU COME AFTER CHRIST AS HIS DISCIPLE?