

Count the Cost—A Question of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-33 [Questions Jesus Asks]

The Bible is more than a book of theological truth. It is also an immensely practical Book that tells you how to live. The parable of Jesus in our text teaches a great practical lesson—

Before undertaking a project, the first thing you should do is “*count the cost*”—How much will cost to complete the project. Towers cost Money. Time. Effort.



One of the first things a wise person looks at before purchasing a particular item is the “price tag.” Can they afford it? Does it fit into their budget? Sadly, many young couples don’t even have a budget.

Many young people buy things without calculating if will they have the money to pay for it. They count on a best case scenario. They should consider a worse case scenario. What if a depression hits? What if you lose your job? What if you become unable to work?

One thing we can be fairly certain of—Prices are going up (except gasoline which is currently going down for a change—and taking Wall Street with it!). Generally speaking, food costs more... cars cost more... clothing costs more... housing costs more... government cost more!

But there are some costs that never change. The costs that involve eternity never change.

I. **Count the cost of PROVIDING SALVATION** (Acts 20:28).

➡ I am so thankful the cost of providing salvation has already been paid. The cost to save my soul from sin was greater than I could pay. As the song goes...

I had a debt I could not pay.
He paid the debt He did not owe.
I needed someone, to wash my sins away.
And now I sing a brand new song,
“Amazing Grace” all day long.
Cause Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay.

- Salvation is free for us, but it cost God everything (Rom. 8:32–*“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”*). Jesus paid for yours and my salvation at Calvary!
- Do you know of anything worth so much you would pay for it with the life of one of your children?

II. **Count the cost of BECOMING A CHRISTIAN.**

➡ Just to be clear, it will cost you something to become a Christian.

- A. Cost you your **self-righteousness** and admitting you are a sinner.
- B. Cost you your **pride** by admitting your good works cannot save you.
- C. Cost you your **religion** that cannot get you into heaven. (Paul)
- D. Cost you your **favor** with the world.

III. **Count the cost of NOT BEING A CHRISTIAN.**

➡ But whatever it costs to become a Christian, it is not near what it will cost you not to be a Christian!

- A. Cost you any hope in the future—Nothing to look forward to.
- B. Cost you an eternal home in Heaven with Jesus.
- C. Cost you your eternal happiness.
- D. Cost you the comfort of the Holy Ghost.
- E. Cost you your soul burning in Hell forever (Mk. 8:36).

IV. **Count the cost of BEING A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST** (vs. 26,27,33).

Jesus is NOT talking about the cost of service in this text. It may cost you something to serve the Lord. But, whatever the cost, we should never hesitate to serve Him. It actually PAYS TO SERVE JESUS.

- **The context** of Christ’s question (v. 28) is regarding the *great multitudes* who were following Him after He taught in *“the house of one of the chief Pharisees”* (vs. 1, 25). Jesus knew that many who followed Him were just curiosity seekers and not truly dedi-

cated to Him. He basically tells this crowd, “If you are going to follow Me, you need to first count the cost of discipleship.” (vs. 26-28).

Comedian Yakov Smirnoff said when he first came to the United States from Russia he was surprised by the variety of instant products sold in American grocery stores. He says, "On my first shopping trip, I saw powdered milk—just add water, and you get milk. Then I saw powered eggs—just add water and you have eggs. Finally I saw baby powder, and I thought to myself, Amazing! What a country!"

➡ If life was only this easy...

- It is easy to get saved. It is as easy as believing the gospel Jesus Christ and receiving Him as your Lord and Savior.
- But there is a price to discipleship. Following Jesus will cost you something.
- Christ did not paint an easy picture. Discipleship ain't for wimps.

➡ There are **THREE COSTS** to discipleship:

A. An **UNRIVALED** love for God (v. 26).

1. A “hyperbole”—Statement of exaggerated contrast [For example—“he passed us like we were standing still.”]
2. Comparatively speaking, a disciple’s love for Christ is so great that his love for anything else appears like hate (cf. Gen. 29:30-31; Matthew 10:37– *He that loveth father or mother **more than me** is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter **more than me** is not worthy of me.*).
3. All church problems are LOVE problems:
 - Why people don’t tithe?
 - Why people don’t study their Bible?
 - Why people don’t attend church?
 - Why people don’t witness to the lost?

“I want to love Jesus so much that when I look up to heaven and say, ‘Jesus, I love You,’ that He will look down and say, “Yes, Al, I know you do!”

B. An UNCEASING dying to self (v. 27).

1. When a man took up his cross in Roman days, he wasn't going out to redirect his life—he was going out to END his life.
2. A crucified man looks in only ONE DIRECTION... A crucified man HOLDS ON TO NOTHING... A crucified man has NO FURTHER PLANS of his own.
3. A crucified man is NOT COMING BACK. Taking up the cross means DEATH TO SELF.
4. A cross is something that you DELIBERATELY and voluntarily choose to “take up.”

A cross is where *your will* crosses *God's will*—When your will crosses God's will, you nail your will to the cross and die to it. Paul did this on a daily basis—“*I die daily*” (1 Cor. 15:31).

C. An UNRESERVED surrender to Christ (v. 33).

A disciple has counted the cost and is willing to pay the price of following Jesus. Is there anything that keeps you from going anywhere in the world, or doing anything in the world for the Lord Jesus Christ? If so, whatever it is must be forsaken and nailed to the cross before you can be a true disciple of Christ.

SUMMATION: Have you counted the cost...

- Of becoming a Christian?
- Of not becoming a Christian?
- Of being a disciple of Christ?

Will you pay the price?