

## Counting The Cost of True Discipleship Luke 14:25-35 NIV

How much does it cost? That is a question we frequently ask when we see something really nice or desirable.

Many people are willing to follow Jesus, to listen to His words, to be fed, to see miracles and even to be seen by others.

Here we see Jesus is beginning to sift the crowd by presenting to them the **STRINGENT TERMS** of discipleship.

- Being a follower of Jesus is not a **COMFY** job.

**Luke 9:57-62** As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."<sup>58</sup> Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."<sup>59</sup> He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."<sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."<sup>61</sup> Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."<sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

- Being a follower of Jesus requires making Him our **#1 PRIORITY**.

**Matthew 10:37** "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

Our love for Christ must be so great that all other loves are **HATRED BY COMPARISON**.

The most difficult part is found in the words "**EVEN HIS OWN LIFE**."

A disciple must carry his **OWN CROSS** and follow Jesus.

**Matthew 10:38** Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Jesus tells us of the necessity of "**COUNTING THE COST**" of being a disciple.

Being a follower of Jesus takes **ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT**.

We must be willing to **GIVE UP EVERYTHING** for the cause of Christ.

**Mark 10:17-22** As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"<sup>18</sup> "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone."<sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'<sup>20</sup> "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."<sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."<sup>22</sup> At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

We are to be salt but if we lose our **ABILITY** to give **FLAVOR** to the world around us, what good are we?

**Matthew 5:13** "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."

We must be **DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT** from the world.

If we are **DILUTED** and **POLLUTED**, we lose the **ABILITY** to make a difference.

**James 1:27** Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

He who has ears to hear....Do we let the word of God inform our lives and guide our actions?

**James 1:22** Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Compare whatever you have **LOST** to what you have **GAINED**.

**Matthew 6:19-21** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."<sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Ephesians 2:6-7** And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.