

COUNT THE COST

Luke 14:27-33 ESV - Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a 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 out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

DESCRIPTION

Jesus made the terms of following Him explicitly clear. When we agree to be a disciple of Jesus, we enter in knowing that it will cost us everything, like a king who knows that he does not have enough strength, soldiers, or resources to win the battle or the war.

We serve a God who gave up everything and died on a cross for us. The evidence of our understanding of what our God did for us is found in the cost we are willing to pay as we obediently follow Jesus.

Jesus imperatively said His disciples must take up our cross and renounce all that we have in order to follow Him. The cross is an instrument of death and as such, disciples must be willing to suffer humiliation, loss, and even pay the ultimate price if God so wills. Not that we pursue sacrifice of our own design but that we position our hearts in readiness to sacrifice whatever might be required of us on our path with God. There is no such thing as a 50% disciple, a *good-times only* disciple, or a *have it my way* disciple. We must be hot or cold, all in or not in at all.

Practicing Count the Cost is about examining our willingness to follow Jesus, even when it hurts and even if it costs us everything.



PURPOSE:

To understand the terms and requirements of following Jesus.

To realistically assess our commitment to following Jesus.

To increase our willingness to give all for Jesus.

SPIRITUAL FRUIT:

Absolute surrender to God and following Jesus.

Increased humility.

Increased readiness to suffer and sacrifice for Jesus and His Kingdom.

PRAYER

Father, thank you for paying the ultimate price for me. Help me to understand the worth of your sacrifice and increase my willingness to give my all for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.



CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the following aspects Jesus alluded to as the potential cost of following Him. Listed in no particular order:

- Hated by family, mother, father for name of Jesus.
- Homelessness: foxes have holes but not Son of Man.
- Losing/giving up all possessions to follow Jesus.
- Persecuted/ridiculed by family, friends, etc.
- Hated by world. Hated by all people.
- Death to self: arrogance, pride, selfishness, "my way," etc.
- Death to flesh: passions, sensual desires, preferences, etc.
- Ultimate price: death, loss of life for the name of Jesus.

TALK WITH GOD

In what ways have you followed God because He gives you what you want or has the power to bless you?

If Jesus never blessed you again, (material blessing, healing, guidance, etc.) would you still want to follow Him?

If you knew that God's purpose was for you to be martyred for Jesus, how would that change your walk of faith?

In what ways have you experienced persecution from family, friends, or others for following Jesus? What is your response?

In what ways have you been called upon to suffer or sacrifice for following Jesus? Did you do it? Joyfully?

In what ways has Jesus asked you to take up your cross and die to yourself or your flesh? How did it change you?

What do you think motivated Jesus to take up His cross? How did He do it? What example does that set for you?

After counting the cost, do you still want be a disciple of Jesus? Why?

NOTES: _____

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 5:10

Luke 9:58

Matthew 24:9

Luke 4:26

John 15:18-25

James 1:2-3, 12

Acts 14:22

Mark 8:36

Luke 9:23

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 6:24

1 John 2:15-17

Revelation 3:16