

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

(or WHO QUALIFIES TO BE A DISCIPLE?)

Luke 14: 25 – 33

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus, in our text, is going toward Jerusalem and a great multitude is following Him – Luke 14:25.
2. Jesus makes it clear to these people that for them to be His disciple will be costly, and they need to count the cost.
 - a. We become so anxious to baptize people that many times we fail to teach them this lesson.
 - b. This is one of the reasons we have so many failures.
3. This is the great lesson that is needed in the church today.
4. Too many start without counting the cost.

I. JESUS OUTLINES THE COST

- a. We must love Him more than family – Luke 14:26; Matt. 10:37.
 - i. He must come before family.
 - ii. We cannot let family get in the way of serving Him.
 - iii. We must come before the dead in our family – Luke 9: 59 – 60.
- b. We must love Him more than our own life – Luke 14: 26; John 12:25; Matt. 10:39.
 - i. Man loves his own life – Eph. 5: 28 – 29.
 - ii. Matt. 10:28.
- c. We must be willing to bear that which is very heavy – our cross – Luke 14:27.
 - i. We must bear our cross daily – Luke 9: 23.
 - ii. The cross involves shame, sacrifice, and suffering – Heb. 12: 2; I Pet. 4:16.
 - iii. You and I must bear our cross.

II. HE BIDS US TO COUNT UP THE COST.

- a. We are like a man that undertakes to build a tower, and therefore must consider the expense of it – Luke 14:28 – 30.
 - i. The man who builds a tower must compare the price with his money on hand.
 - ii. If he doesn't do this, he may only get the foundation laid – Luke 14:29.
 - iii. What he did was only a waste of time, money and effort.
 - iv. It becomes a monument of folly and a lack of judgment on the part of the builder—Luke 14:30.
- b. The man who would become a disciple of Jesus must sit down and count the COST!
 - i. It will cost a life of SELF-DENIAL – Luke 9: 23; Tit. 2: 11 – 12.
 - ii. It will cost a life of SERVING OTHERS – Matt. 20:28; Phil. 2:4.

- iii. It will cost a life of WATCHFULNESS – Matt. 25:13; 26:41.
- iv. It will cost you TIME:
 - 1. Time to WORSHIP – Heb. 10:25.
 - 2. Time to STUDY – 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - 3. Time to WORK – I Cor. 15:58.
- v. It will cost you MONEY:
 - 1. To support the work of the church – I Cor. 16:1 – 2.
 - 2. To do you individual duty.
- c. When we undertake to be a disciple of Jesus, we are like a man that goes to WAR and therefore must consider the HAZARD of it – Luke 14: 31 – 32.
 - i. A king that declares war considers whether he has strength wherewith to make his part good, and if not, he will lay aside his thoughts of war.
 - ii. The life of a Christian is a WARFARE – I Tim. 1:18; Eph. 6: 11 – 13.
 - iii. We must fight every step we go – 2 Cor. 10: 3 – 5; Eph. 6: 11 -13.
 - iv. We must consider whether we can endure the hardness which a good soldier must expect and count upon – 2 Tim. 2:3.
 - v. We must consider the danger of returning to the world – 2 Pet. 2: 20 – 22; Heb. 6: 4 – 6.
- d. The application of these parables is in verse 33:
 - i. To be a disciple one must forsake all – Matt. 6:33.
 - ii. No place for half-hearted discipleship.
 - iii. Paul forsook all – Phil. 3:8.
 - iv. The pearl of great price – Matt. 13: 45 – 46.
- e. He warns them against apostasy, for that would make them utterly useless – Luke 14: 34 – 35.
 - i. Faithful disciples are the SALT of the earth – Matt. 5: 13.
 - ii. “Salt is good” – A Dedicated Christian is good and of great use.
 - iii. A half-hearted disciple is like salt that has lost its savor; he is useless and worthless to the Lord – Luke 14:35.

CONCLUSION

Everyone should count the cost of discipleship.

Only those who count the cost will be able to stand.