

Counting the Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-35

Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever. 1Timothy 4:8 (The Message)

Take-home truth: Successful discipleship requires making Jesus the #1 priority in your life.

In today's passage of Scripture, Jesus reveals three costs you must be willing to count if you want to be His disciple.

#1: COST OF RELATIONSHIPS

²⁵A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶"If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:25-26 (New Living Translation)

⁸But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers. 1Timothy 5:8 (NLT)

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." Ephesians 5:25 (New International Version, 1984)

¹²"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12 (NIV)

#2: COST OF SELF-SACRIFICE

²⁷And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27 (NLT)

Two illustrations on counting the cost

a. Building the Tower

²⁸"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'" Luke 14:28-30 (NLT)

b. The King and His Army

³¹"Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³²And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away." Luke 14:31-32 (NLT)

#3: COST OF POSSESSIONS

³³So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own. Luke 14:33 (NLT)

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

FINAL WARNING

³⁴"Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? ³⁵Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!" Luke 14:34-35 (NLT)