

Counting the Cost

Luke 14:25-35

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- We are living in the day of “Casual Christianity” here in America
 - 2 Timothy 4:3-- *“ they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers.”*
- Jesus attracted great crowds who came for various reasons.
 - Matthew 7:28b-29-- *“ people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”*
- Jesus challenged them to become fully-devoted followers.
 - Matthew 11:28-30-- *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

Counting the Cost

- Luke 14:25-35-- *“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the 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 to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’”*

A. The COST To be his disciple, we must....

1. Love Christ supremely

- Luke 14:26-- *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”*
- a. **The meaning of “hate”**
 - 1) Cannot be literal, but rhetorical
 - 2) Scriptural explanation
 - Matthew 10:37-- *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”*
- b. **Jesus is to be our “first love”!**
- c. **Following Jesus sometimes destroys families!**
 - Luke 12:52-- *“For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.”*

2. Be willing to obey, even if it means suffering

- Luke 14:27-- *"And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."*
- a. **Jesus' earlier call to discipleship**
 - Luke 9:23-24-- *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."*
- b. **Self-sacrifice a necessary part**
 - Romans 12:1-2-- *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*
- c. **"Cross" as symbol of suffering and death**
- d. **The world "hates" us.**
 - John 15:18-19-- *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."*
 - John 17:14-- *"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."*

3. Give Jesus everything we possess

- Luke 14:33-- *"So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."*
- a. **Jesus' encounter with the rich, young ruler**
 - Luke 18:22-- *"You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*
- b. **Willingness to give up the right of ownership.**
- c. **The actions and attitude of the early church**
 - Acts 2:44-45-- *"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need."*
 - Acts 4:32-- *"Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common."*

B. The COST COUNTED

1. Consider the Cost involved in Following Jesus

- a. **Parable of the Building Project**
 - Luke 14:28-29-- *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the 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.'"*
 - *"Look before you jump!"*
- b. **Parable of Military Planning**
 - Luke 14:31-32-- *"Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace."*
 - *"Look where you are jumping!"*

2. Consider the Resources available in following Jesus

- The Spirit of God living within us. (Ephesians 3:26)
- Christ dwelling in our hearts by faith.
- Competence in ministry that comes from God.
 - 2 Corinthians 3:5-6a-- *"Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant"*
- Sufficient grace and power to overcome weaknesses
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9-- *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*
- We've been *"blessed in the heavenly realm with every spiritual blessing in Christ"* (Ephesians 1:3)
- We've been promised everything that we need for life and godliness
 - 2 Peter 1:3-4-- *"His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

3. Consider the Consequences of not finishing

- a. **Metaphor of "salt"** —it's uses, source, and how it might lose its saltiness.
 - Luke 14:34-35-- *"Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*
- b. **The danger of becoming useless for Christ's kingdom work.**
 - Hebrews 6:4-6-- *"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."*