

The Cost of Discipleship

(Luke 14:25-35)

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INTRODUCTION

- A. Our text is Luke 14:25–35.
 - 1. Many of Christ’s followers were merely going along with Him, attracted by one thing and another.
 - 2. His penetrating comments thinned the ranks of the crowd as many realized the great difference between a casual spectator and an obedient disciple.
 - 3. The difference is consecration, commitment, and loyal involvement to the point of personal sacrifice.
 - B. Parker Henderson, missionary to Thailand, said, “If I had my life to live over again, I would spend it in the same way, helping people. There is no progress unless people’s lives are being changed.”
 - C. If we are ever to get the message of Christ to a lost world, it will be because we have made disciples, who in turn make disciples.
 - D. If we are to be the church we are capable of being, it will be because we have caught the vision of what discipleship really is.
 - E. So, today we are discussing “The Cost of Discipleship.”
- I. THE SETTING (14:25)
- A. *Large crowds were following Jesus.*
 - 1. They were following because they were being cared for physically, being well-fed.
 - 2. They were following because of his miracles.
 - 3. They were following because it was popular.
 - B. Notice: “He turned and said . . .”
 - 1. It was time to let them know what following Him involved.
 - 2. He wanted them to understand that there was a price to be paid.

- 3. It was time to thin out the ranks, and concentrate on those who would be willing to pay the price.
 - a. A storm is coming, and there is only time to bring just so many ships into the harbor.
 - b. Some are loaded with cargo, and some are empty.
 - c. Which ones will we bring in?
 - d. We spend too much of our time on empty ships!

II. THE TERMS OF CONSECRATION (14:26, 27, 33)

- A. He deals with personal relationships (v. 26).
 - 1. Explain this verse. (How can I hate my father, mother, and brother?)
 - 2. He is talking about priority.
 - a. Glen Pace served in Vietnam as a chaplain.
 - b. He stayed nine months; his wife and children were back here anxiously awaiting his return.
 - c. He elected to stay for nine more months.
 - d. Was it because he did not love his wife and children?
 - e. It was because of the work he was doing with the soldiers and the Vietnamese. It had to do with priority.
 - 3. Young people, you may be dating or friendly with one who hurts you spiritually, and though it may be painful, you have to sever that relationship, or else be mismatched with an unbeliever.
- B. He deals with personal desires (v. 27).
 - 1. A cross meant death in Christ’s day.
 - 2. We must die to ourselves and wishes; we must renounce self and seek His will first.
 - 3. What is meant by “dying to self”?

- a. Keith Phillips in his book, *The Making of a Disciple* talked about flying a jet which crashes.
- b. Read Galatians 2:20.
- 4. There are three questions that will help you to know if you have died to self.
 - a. Have you honestly and objectively taken your life goals before God?
 - b. Do your goals feed your ego more than they glorify God?
 - c. Are you willing to change your goals if they do not meet God's approval?
- 5. Do you have a "Burger-King religion"? ("Have it your way" . . .)
- 6. Read Isaiah 53:6.
- C. He deals with personal possessions (v. 33).
 - 1. Explain the meaning of this verse.
 - 2. Do not allow things to own you.
 - a. A house or a new car can own us.
 - b. When they become more of a priority than Jesus Christ, then they own you.
 - c. Lake houses, resorts, and vacations can own us.
 - 3. Hold everything loosely. Be ready to give them up.
 - 4. God may require you to give them up, or He may take them.
 - a. Abraham had to give up Isaac.
 - b. Job had to give up his possessions.

III. THE REASON FOR CONSECRATION (14:28–32).

- A. The illustration of building is used.
 - 1. It does not mean count the cost or be em-

barrassed.

- 2. The Lord was the builder of the church and knew the price to be paid if the church was to be built.
- 3. We need to count the cost today.
- B. The illustration of fighting is used.
 - 1. It does not mean count the cost or be destroyed.
 - 2. Read Ephesians 6:10–12.
 - a. We will need strength to win this fight.
 - b. We must count the cost or pay the price.

IV. THE SUMMARY (14:34, 35)

- A. Salt is good.
 - 1. It saves from corruption.
 - 2. It adds zest to life.
- B. What do we see in the world and church?
 - 1. There are people in the world who can add zest to life, but cannot save from corruption.
 - 2. We have people in the church who can save from corruption, but do not add zest to life.
- C. We need disciples who will give zest to life and who will also be the preservative to a decaying world.
- D. We need disciples who are willing to pay the price.

CONCLUSION

- A. Decide to pay the price.
- B. Consecrate and dedicate yourself to the Lord Jesus.

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