

Counting the Cost

There is a cost to following Jesus Christ. Many people will follow Jesus for what they can get out of it, but will then turn away when it begins to cost them something. True service to Christ requires us to first count the cost. Yet there is great reward for those who do this; the kingdom of God is given to us!



Luke 14:25-33

The Cost of Discipleship

25 Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, 26 “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

O b s e r v a t i o n s

Large Crowds

The crowds following Jesus were interested in his celebrity status as the Messiah but they were not interested in personal transformation.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an exaggerated statement that is not intended to be taken literally. Jesus often used hyperbole to catch people’s attention or get them thinking on a particular point. In this case, he wants us to understand that becoming his disciple requires us to surrender all other allegiances.

The Relational Cost

Jesus requires us to surrender all other loyalties. We must even surrender our loyalty to ourselves.

The Cultural Cost

Jesus requires us to give up our dependency for cultural affirmation. The cross is a sign of absolute rejection by the world.

The Material Cost

Jesus requires us to abandon our attachment to material wealth.

Moving on Toward Completion

Jesus wants to remake us entirely. This requires our full commitment and willingness to follow through regardless of the cost.



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

Application *for abundant living:*



The White Flag

is a universal sign of surrender.

This must be our posture before God.
Find time each day to surrender yourself
entirely to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Further Study *for a deeper understanding:*

The extreme cost of discipleship causes us to question whether the reward outweighs price we have to pay. Simon Peter raised this question and Jesus gave an answer. Read about this in:

“The Rich Ruler” - Luke 18:18-30

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

Have you ever wanted something so badly you didn't care about the cost?

Do you think of yourself as a disciple of Jesus and what does that mean to you?

How do you think most people felt when they heard Jesus' harsh words?

What are you currently holding onto that is actually holding you back?

How do you get both feet planted in the kingdom and keep them there?