

Discipleship Tested

Luke 14:25-35

²⁵ Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. ³⁴ “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

I can imagine that as Jesus headed toward Jerusalem that the crowds and the excitement built. Many people were thrilled at the new day that the Messiah would usher in. Most of them never thought about the cost involved. A number of them were just a part of the crowd. Some were there to see more of the fantastic miracles. For others, they were truly there for the relationship with Christ. They understood some of the cost, but like us today did not fully see. Jesus wanted them and us to realize the cost of discipleship.

1. Following Christ requires a change in where we invest our life.

Romans 8:12-14, Proverbs 23:7a, Titus 2:14, Ephesians 2:10, 1 John 2:16, Romans 6:15, Colossians 3:5-7

2. Following Christ requires that we surrender our personal will.

Matthew 16:24, Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:6, Luke 22:42, John 8:42

3. Following Christ requires that we separate from the world.

Galatians 6:14, Hebrews 11:17, 2 Corinthians 6:14, Ephesians 5:11-12

4. Following Christ repays us in countless blessings.

Forgiveness and Salvation - Colossians 1:13-14

Comfort - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, John 14:16

Joy - John 15:11, Acts 13:52

Transformation - Titus 3:7, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 1:6

Secure Love - Romans 8:35, 38-39