

Count the Cost

Mark 8:34-38

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Salvation is a free gift from God. When we follow Jesus, our lives are eternally changed. Jesus calls us to count the cost of following Him. Discipleship to Jesus is a daily sacrifice, but He is worth following.

Three Costs of Following Jesus:

1. Daily self-denial.
Mark 8:34-35; Luke 9:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17
“Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life.” -Dietrich Bonhoeffer
2. Exchanging worldly comfort for eternal rewards.
Mark 8:36-37; Luke 4:5-8; Luke 12:19-21
“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” -Jim Elliot
3. Boldly making Jesus known in your daily life.
Mark 8:38; Matthew 13:44; Philippians 3:12-14

Application questions:

1. Do you take up your cross daily and follow Jesus?
2. Are worldly comforts more important to you than following Jesus?
3. Are there any areas of your life which you are ashamed of boldly making Jesus known?
At work? With family? With friends? In the market?