

HE WHO COUNTS THE COST

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Luke 14:25-35

1. Many misinterpret verses 28-32 by suggesting that Jesus is telling us to count the cost before we commit to following Him.

2. When I first became a follower of Jesus Christ, I had little understanding of what following Jesus would mean for me.

NOTE: Becoming a follower of Jesus Christ is somewhat like joining a branch of the Armed Services.

a. When I joined the Navy in 1960, I did not know what would be required of me.

b. However I was under oath to do whatever was required of me.

c. For me, my time in the Navy was relatively easy in that I was never exposed to any real danger.

d. When I graduated from Electronics School, I was sent to serve on a Submarine Tender based in Charleston, SC, while two friends of mine were attached to the Marine Corp to serve with a special operations unit.

e. I suspect that they had a much harder time of it than I did.

f. However, all three of us were under orders, and so we went where we were told to go and did what we were expected to do.

3. The truth here is, that Jesus has counted the cost as to what will be required of those who follow Him.

a. Jesus is the Builder, and like us, when we are going to build a building, He has calculated what it will cost to build His Church. 1 Peter 2:4-5

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

NOTE: Jesus is the Builder, and we are the stones.

b. Jesus is also our Commander and Chief, and He is the One who knows what it will cost us to fully follow Him.

(1) I have a note in my Bible that says, "It is not the foot soldiers who count the cost, but they do pay the price."

NOTE: Prior to D-Day, military planners had to determine how many men would be required for the attacking force, and how many men could they afford to lose.

(2) Jesus was being followed by a great multitude when He said to them, "I have counted the cost, and if you really want to follow Me this is what is required of you—you must love Me supremely, follow Me faithfully, and trust Me totally."

I. The exhortation.

“So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.”

- A. Our possessions would include our time, talents, aspirations and possessions, in other words, the totality of our lives including our lives.
- B. Jesus Christ must be Lord of All and not Lord of Some.
- C. As I have stated previously, people are willing to accept what I call proportionate living and giving, but relatively few people have embraced the standard Jesus set here.

II. The example.

A. The first example is Jesus Christ. 1 John 3:16-18

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

B. The second example is that of the Early Church. Acts 4:32

And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.

1. Some interpret this as a form of communism, but those under communism do not have a choice in the matter.
2. All that is voluntarily surrendered to Jesus Christ becomes His property, therefore common property, to be used as He sees fit.

III. The expectation. 2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 9 as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

A. Notice that New Testament giving is not to be done grudgingly or under compulsion.

NOTE: It is not a matter of keeping the Law.

B. Our giving should bring us joy.

NOTE: God loves a cheerful (willing, hilarious) giver.

C. What we give to God for the benefit of others is just giving back to Him what He has given to us.

D. The church in Jerusalem was suffering greatly, and Paul was raising an offering to relieve their suffering.

E. God gives us what He gives us to be used for the advancement of His Kingdom and for the good of others.

APPLICATION

1. For those of us who live in the West, modern Christianity has become a very convenient form of Christianity, that has little resemblance to Biblical Christianity.
2. When Jesus commanded His followers to go and make disciples of all the nations these three standards were to be the goal of their living, teaching, and preaching.
3. There are three more which we will discuss over the next three weeks.
4. I am thankful for the present standard of living I enjoy, but I am always conscious of the fact that nothing I call my own really belongs to me.
5. We should all be fully surrendered to God so that He can ask of us anything, and, if necessary, everything.