**The Cost of Discipleship**

*Luke 14:25-33*

**Introduction**

1. Throughout His ministry Jesus attracted some pretty decent crowds.
2. At this time in **Luke 14:25-33**, multitudes were following Him and He stopped, turned to them, and informed them of the cost of discipleship – what truly following Him cost one.
3. Let us consider the words of Jesus on the cost of discipleship.
4. Motive **(v. 25)**
5. Reasons Jesus is “Followed”
   1. **Luke 14:25** – Great multitudes – this was common for Jesus’ ministry.
   2. **Why did so many follow Him?**
      1. ***“Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled” (John 6:26*** – after feeding 5,000).
      2. Before they found Him on the other side of the sea of Galilee – ***“Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed” (John 6:15*** – Seeking a political leader).
      3. ***“And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, ‘This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet’” (Luke 11:29*** – Despite signs he already performed, they did not obey Him, and tested Him with requests for more.).
   3. Someone said, ***“’Lord, I will follow you wherever You go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’” (Luke 9:57-58)***.
      1. Jesus has nothing physical and grandiose to offer anyone.
      2. One must not follow Him with that in mind.
6. The Reason Jesus Should be Followed
   1. After Jesus spoke truth which offended many following Him – **cf. John 6:66-69** – Peter’s answer shows the pure motive for following Him.
   2. Those who are His TRUE disciples are those who seek what He came to earth to offer.
   3. **To acquire such – life – one must count the cost! 🡪**
7. The Cost of Following Him **(vv. 26-30)**
8. Love for Him Must Transcend **(v. 26)**
   1. What does it mean to “hate” father, mother, wife (husband), children, brothers, sisters, and his own life?
   2. **Cannot mean what we know hate to be today:**
      1. ***“Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in Him” (1 John 3:15).***
      2. ***“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:9)***.
      3. Jesus even said we mustn’t hate our enemies, but love them **(cf. Matthew 5:43-48)**.
   3. **A matter of the amount of love in contrast:**
      1. ***“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37).***
      2. Jacob with Rachel and Leah – **cf. Genesis 29:30-31 –** Is not that he did not love Leah, but not as much as Rachel. (*Laban tricked him and gave him Leah after 7 yrs of work, then given Rachel, and worked 7 more yrs to marry her.)*
      3. **Must love Jesus MORE THAN ANYONE – devoted to Him first and foremost.**
      4. **NOTE: coming to Him in full conviction, not with motive to please others – *“And [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks” (Acts 18:4* – come to Him based on the persuasive/convicting power of the gospel.).**
   4. **Such love toward Jesus which transcends all love for others and self will show in our devotion to Him 🡪**
9. Love for Him is Manifest in Full Devotion **(v. 27)**
   1. ***“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).***
   2. **For Jesus:**
      1. **His cross** – was His major and primary purpose on earth – ***“But for this purpose I came to this hour” (John 12:27b)***.
      2. Such required total self-denial in submission to the Father’s will – ***“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:8).***
      3. Sacrificial living in devotion to the One He loved most.
   3. **For us:**
      1. **Luke 18:29-30** – Leaving all to follow Christ. (Not that it is a requirement, **but that there must be the willingness if a situation arise which calls for it.) (I.E. always choosing Jesus over anyone else.)**
      2. **Also, if we must love Christ more than family, what of the world?**
         1. **1 John 2:15-16** – Not, “love less,” but “do NOT love” (sinful things – lusts).
         2. *But also anything of the general (not sinful) worldly realm* – **cf. 1 Corinthians 6:12** – NOT BE BROUGHT UNDER POWER.
         3. **Cf. Hebrews 12:1** – Every WEIGHT (in contradistinction from sin).
            1. What are weights?
            2. **ANYTHING weighing us down in our race following Jesus – relationships, recreation, JOBS, etc.**
   4. We must count that cost 🡪
10. One Must Count the Cost of Following Him **(vv. 28-30)**
    1. Decide to accept WHATEVER COST to follow Him before ever following Him.
    2. **Cf. 2 Peter 2:20-22** – Latter end is worse than beginning for those fallen away. (**After tasting the blessings, you determined the cost was not worth continuing to the finish – something was better to you – what’s left?**)
11. **While we must consider the cost of following Him, this does not mean that we can avoid the topic altogether 🡪**
12. The Cost of Not Following Him **(vv. 31-32)**
13. King going against another King (**Luke 14:31-32**)
    1. Where **vv. 28-30** considered an illustration where a person could decide to build, or not to build, **not there is really no choice concerning the approaching king. HE IS COMING.**
    2. **Consideration: Is the cost of NOT following Him worth it?**
    3. The king is greater (10,000 vs. 20,000) – He IS coming, and you CANNOT defeat Him.
       1. **Question:** *Will I go up against Him anyway, or will I seek conditions of peace?* **(v. 32)**
       2. **Choices:** Be destroyed, or satisfy conditions of peace (some sacrifice/loss) and receive life (**v. 33 – Forsake all you have**).
    4. **The cost of following Him is great, but the cost of NOT following Him is GREATER!**
14. Jesus is Coming Soon
    1. **Acts 17:30-31** – Repent for He is coming and will judge!
    2. ***“I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5).***
15. It cost a lot to be a disciple of the Lord, and we must consider if that is worth it. Already considered is that the cost of not following Him is not worth it. **What of the investment of following Him? Will we receive a return that is worth it?**
16. The Value of Following Him
17. Paul Counted the Cost as Worthwhile
    1. **Philippians 3:7-8** – Count all as loss to gain Christ.
    2. Even to the extent that he partook in the ***“fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” (v. 10).***
    3. **Was all the pain, trouble, heartache, and suffering worth it Paul?**
18. The Return on His Investment
    1. Perhaps some of the last words written by the apostle – **cf. 2 Timothy 4:6-8a**.
    2. It was well worth it for Paul.
    3. **(v. 8b)** – Paul says it will be well worth it for any who count the cost, and consider it worth following Christ.

**Conclusion**

1. Have you counted the cost? The cost of discipleship is indeed great, but with the power of the gospel we can follow Him, and prevail!
2. The cost of not following Him is much greater.
3. To follow Him is to receive great reward! – ***“Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).***