

The Cost

Luke 14:25-35

The cost of being a disciple of Jesus is simple: everything I have. It is about complete and _____ of one's entire life to Jesus. Anything less may or may not be sinful; but it is definitely not following Jesus.

Discussion 1. Do you think it is fair that Jesus requires such a high level of commitment in order to follow Him? Why or why not?

The scriptural understanding of discipleship is that, though salvation comes as a free gift by God's grace, it is then embarking on a lifelong journey which comes at a cost; and the wise person considers that cost _____.

Discussion 2. What are some costs you have paid in order to follow Jesus (relationships, jobs, financial, etc.)? Did you know about those costs *before* you started following Jesus? If not, would it have mattered if you did?

Counting the cost ahead of time of what it will require to follow Jesus is not about seeing if I have what it takes; _____. Rather, it is about setting out from the very beginning to commit every hour of my day, every relationship in my life, and everything I possess to Jesus.

Discussion 3. When you became a Christ follower, who explained to you the real cost of discipleship, i.e., how difficult it would sometimes be? What did they say to you about it?

When, in our efforts to emphasize salvation as a free gift, we welcome new believers into the faith with no real understanding of the cost of discipleship, we set them up to fall away as soon as it gets difficult; we set them up to be _____.

Discussion 4. If we have church systems in place that convert people to Christianity without having them really consider the cost, do you think that creates “uncommitted Christians”? If so, how can we correct that? From a practical standpoint, what does it look like to have people “count the cost” before they convert?