

The Cost of Discipleship

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I. Introduction.

A. Subject: true disciples.

B. Passage: Luke 14:25-35

II. Jesus and the multitudes.

A. Great multitudes followed Jesus, but he limited them by stating the demands of discipleship.

1. The multitudes would eventually turn on Him. He was not interested in the multitudes.

2. Paul could not count on the multitudes either. (Acts 14:18-19)

3. Jesus was out recruiting for “a few good [people].”

B. The effectiveness of a group is not in the multitudes—it is in dedication.

III. Requirements of discipleship.

A. One ought to “hate” his mother and father.

1. Hate means to prize less dearly by comparison.

a. We are to have a strong preference for Jesus over family and self.

b. Jesus will tolerate no rivals.

2. Putting Jesus first as a couple starts in courtship days.

B. One ought to put Jesus before children.

1. Sometimes children rule the family.

2. You have to turn your children over to the Lord.

3. The greatest thing a parent can do for his children is to put Jesus first in an obvious way.

C. One ought to put Jesus before self. What Jesus thinks, feels and wills must dominate what we think, feel and will.

D. We must take up our cross.

1. Although cross symbols are made to look beautiful it is not a beautiful thing.

2. In a world gone wrong it took a cross—a sign of trouble—to make things right.
3. It took a cross to pay for sin.
4. A cross means suffering. Even Jesus learned obedience by what He suffered.
5. Suffering is purposeful.
 - a. If you are suffering without succeeding it is so someone might succeed after you. If you are succeeding without suffering it is because someone has done so before you. Suffering and success go together.
 - b. Leadership is simply paying the price.
 - c. People who have been really used of God have a cross to bear.
6. The Christian life is not all joy.

E. We must count the cost.

1. The one who has attempted to build without the material to finish is considered a fool.
2. Jesus came to build.
3. He came to destroy the works of the devil.
4. To finish his building, He needs people He can count on.
5. Many have become too tied down to things that have put them out of the will of God.
6. The challenges will get worse, but fruitfulness will carry on to the end. (Psalm 94:14)

IV. Conclusion: rededicate yourself to Christ.

Application questions.

1. Why did Jesus seem to show little concern for the multitudes?

2. What is the ‘cost’ of discipleship? What would you find hardest to give up for the call of Christ?

3. What is holding you back from following Christ whole-heartedly? Take some time to rededicate yourself to following Christ. Share what this means to you to a friend.
