

“COUNT THE COST”

INTRODUCTION

A. Luke 14:25-33

It is not wise to commit one's life to Christ without being aware of the costs involved.

B. 1st Corinthians 15:19

Our goal in Christ is for a better afterlife, not a better life now. Although many blessings do accompany discipleship, that is not the intent of serving Him.

I. DISCIPLESHIP COSTS FRIENDSHIP

A. James 4:4

We cannot accurately claim amity with God while playing around with worldliness.

B. 1st Corinthians 15:33

The company we keep influences us.

C. Proverbs 12:26

Friends must be chosen with great care.

II. DISCIPLESHIP COSTS KINSHIP

A. Matthew 19:29

Familial relations may have to be severed in order to pursue Christ and His kingdom.

B. Mark 6:4

Jesus did not enjoy proper regard from His family. How can we expect better treatment?

C. Matthew 10:34-37

While godliness often does result in better families, it is wrong to presume that will always be the case because we cannot conscript our parents and siblings into serving the Lord. If they choose not to, our relationship may suffer.

III. DISCIPLESHIP COSTS TIME

A. **1st Thessalonians 5:17**

A person who prays unceasingly will need to devote time to the habit!

B. **Acts 17:11**

One who studies God's word daily will need to adjust the amount of time spent on sports, video games, or crafts.

C. **Hebrews 3:13**

Daily exhortation means religion isn't a part of one's life, but the core of one's lifestyle.

IV. DISCIPLESHIP COSTS MONEY

A. **Mark 10:17-21**

It's not just money, but anything that a person is unwilling to surrender which he absolutely must surrender in order to please the Lord, but, very often, money is that thing.

B. **Matthew 6:19-21**

Being mindful of heavenly treasure will mean sometimes foregoing opportunities that could have increased our wealth.

C. **2nd Corinthians 9:6-7**

Generous giving won't be determined by fellow church members, but God knows whether we are giving in that way.

V. DISCIPLESHIP COSTS CONVENIENCE

A. **Matthew 8:19-20**

Jesus described Himself as effectively homeless during His ministry.

B. Hebrews 11:13-16

Our forebears in faith didn't settle into this world either.

VI. DISCIPLESHIP COSTS SAFETY

A. 2nd Timothy 3:12

If we don't ever suffer for Christ, we are doing something wrong.

B. 1st Thessalonians 3:3-4

Persecution is a reality for Christians.

C. 1st Peter 2:19-21

We can imitate Jesus by enduring mistreatment.