

What Does It Cost to Follow Jesus?

Luke 14:26-35

A. Observe One Common Phrase: "Cannot Be My Disciple"

- "cannot" – concerns ability, not prohibition
- "be" – concerns activity, not a membership
- "My disciple" – concerns identity with Jesus, not ourselves
Luke 6:40 – A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.
1 John 2:6 – He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

B. Accept Two Principles:

1. The Cost Principle (28-32): *What does it cost?*
 - Jesus Has Calculated the Cost
2. The Purpose Principle (34-35): *If not, what good are we?*
 - We are saved to Savor
 - We are liberated to become Light
 - Not "a" purpose but "the" purpose of our lives
 - It is not "a" point of our life but "the" point of our life

Titus 2:14 – who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself [His] own special people, zealous for good works.

Matthew 5:13-16 – You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all [who are] in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

C. Make Three Decisions:

1. Requirement #1: Put God Ahead of All Relationships (26) People
 - Abraham leaves home & family – Genesis 12:1-4
 - Abraham offers Isaac – Genesis 22:1-19

My family will be better off if I put God in His rightful first place.

2. Requirement #2: Put God Ahead of All Ambitions (27) Pursuits

- Abraham follows God's plan – Genesis 12:2-9
- Abraham believes God's promise – Genesis 15:15:1-6

I will have the deepest satisfaction in life if I follow God's plan.

3. Requirement #3: Put God Ahead of All Possessions (33)

- Abraham gives Lot choice of land – Genesis 13:1-14
- Abraham tithes & rejects God-less gain – Genesis 14:14-24

God will provide & care for me if I seek Him & not wealth.

Psalm 37:25 – I have been young, and [now] am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

Matthew 6:24 – No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:33 – But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

1 John 2:15-17 – Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Luke 14:26-35

26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has [enough] to finish [it --] 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see [it] begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. 34 Salt [is] good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? 35 It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, [but] men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"