

# COUNTING THE COST

## Introduction:

- A. Following Jesus is a joy to His true disciples. When a person is a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, that person is said to be wise. (Matthew 7:24,25)
- B. But too many times a person becomes a follower of Jesus Christ, but then turns back to the evil things of this world. They fail to count the cost of being a follower of Christ.
- C. Luke 14:26-33 - Jesus turned to the people who were following Him and taught them that a person should count the cost of being His disciple before he puts on Christ in baptism.

## I. Love Jesus More Than Anyone Else

- A. Luke 14:26, Matthew 10:37 - Jesus does not mean that you must hate your father and mother, but you must love Jesus more than you love your father or mother.
- B. Parents love for their children is great, but your love for Jesus must be greater.
- C. If you are going to be a true disciple of Jesus, then you must love Jesus more than you love yourself, or you cannot be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
  - This is one of the hardest things to do. What Jesus wants comes first. What you want must come behind what Jesus wants from you.
  - Matthew 22:37 You must love God with all your heart, mind, and strength.

## II. Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

- A. Luke 14:27 - If you want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, you must take up your cross and follow Him. To take up your cross was a sign of death; you put your selfish desires and worldly ways to death (Galatians 5:24, 6:14)
- B. Galatians 5:19-21 - Before you can take up your cross, you must first lay down some things.
  - Hebrews 11:24,25 Moses counted the cost. He laid down the pleasures of this world, and chose the riches of God instead.
  - Matthew 19:16-22 The young rich man asked Jesus how he could receive eternal life. When Jesus told him, he counted the cost. He went away sad because he thought the cost of eternal life was too high.
- C. To be a follower, you must take up some things
  - Acts 17:30 You must repent of your sins; stop following the sins of Satan
  - John 8:31, 14:15 You must abide in His words and keep His commandments
  - Hebrews 10:25 You must be faithful in the church of Jesus Christ
  - Revelation 2:10 You must be faithful until you die.

## Conclusion

- A. Matt. 16:26,27 What are you willing to give in exchange for your soul?
- B. Matt. 19:29 When you sacrifice for Jesus, you will be repaid very much
- C. 2 Peter 2:20-22 It is worse for you if you become a disciple of Jesus Christ and then turn back to the evils of this world.
- D. You need to count the cost of following Jesus
  - 2 Thess. 1:7,8 If you do not follow, you will suffer the punishment of God.
  - Matthew 19:21 Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven

\* You are not expected to be perfect - 1 John 7-9

