

Luke 14:25-33

This is one of the most sobering and searching passages in all the Word of God. "There went great multitudes with Him".

Jesus had just prior to this, healed the woman who had an infirmity and was bent over for 18 years, and the man who had dropsy or edema, which best I can tell was the effect of congestive heart failure. (Swelling)

Now this "great multitude" of people probably spoke among themselves that this MUST BE their promised Messiah and King!

Many if not all of them WERE READY to follow Christ and to pledge their allegiance to Him as their King: So, they thought, but the Lord Jesus turned about and prevented them.

He knew their intentions, so He told them, "Not so fast" before you intend to follow me, have you counted the cost of following me, of being my disciple, of being associated with me?

This multitude only saw "the glorious things done by Christ" (Luke 13:17), but what they didn't see was the not-so-glorious things that would await them as followers of Christ. The Lord Jesus knew that they hadn't counted the cost! What does your Christianity cost you? Look at the Apostles and many of the 1st Century Christians, their Christianity cost them their lives.

Revelation 12:10: "They loved not their lives unto death".

One of our problems as Christians in America is that our Christianity doesn't COST US anything.

Instead of believing/accepting what Christ said about how we will suffer and be persecuted as His disciples and followers in this evil world, instead of taking up our own personal cross daily, and being intimately associated with the sufferings of Christ in our lives, we bend over backward in America to be accommodating to our family, friends, and to the world.

This... Because WE HAVE counted the cost of following Christ, and the cost is more than we are willing to pay, so, we capitulate and exchange our Christianity for "a religion" that costs us nothing... no suffering shame for the gospel, no cross to bear, and no persecution or dealing with those that hate us because we love Christ!

Child of God, that's not Christianity! That's not what following Christ looks like. At the end of this passage, Luke 14:33, the Lord Jesus admonished that great multitude of "would-be followers", by telling them, "Whosoever he be of you

that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple".

Have you counted the cost of being a Christian, a disciple of Christ?

There's nothing wrong with wanting to live peaceably in this present world, Paul wrote this to Timothy. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

This is to be our prayer to our heavenly Father, but when it comes to openly professing faith in Christ in the world, we are not to capitulate or compromise for the sake of peace and quietness in this world.

If following Christ means that we become outcasts in the world, and our lives become miserable, we must know losing this life is "well worth the cost" of gaining eternal life with Christ! John 12:25-26

But O how many will cast the Kingdom of Christ aside for peace in this life with the kingdom of this world? John 12:25-26

The Lord Jesus Christ prepared His apostles before He sent them out to preach the message of the Kingdom. We must take these words to heart as His disciples! Matthew 10:16-39

Luke 14:26: If you want to follow me, COME!

But are you willing to bear the cost of putting me first in your life, above your own family and your nearest relations?

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me! He that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me!

Are you willing to suffer shame and reproach as my disciple and follower in the world? Is being associated with Me worth the cost? (Luke 14:27)

Luke 14:28-30: If you intend to follow Christ, you better be wholehearted toward Christ, and not half-hearted, for there will be costs, you will experience losses, you will lose friends, and maybe even some in your family. Storms and attacks will beat against your profession; therefore, you better make sure your profession is built upon Christ the solid Rock!

You better be ready for spiritual warfare:

By the way, we don't make treaties with the kings of this world, nor with the god of this world. We don't lay down our armor to the wicked one, we don't make agreements with him. We march forward under the banner of Christ. We fight the good fight of faith under Christ our King!

Luke 14:33: The ultimate cost:

The Lord Jesus wasn't telling them to cast away all their possessions! But what He was telling them (and us) is that we

must be willing to forsake anything that comes between US and
OUR Lord!