

Counting The Cost

(Lk 14:25-33)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. We have finished up our series of lessons on “Bring Back To Remembrance.”
 - a. We finished up looking at the “400 Years Of Silence.”
 - i. **Ga 4:4** “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law”¹
 - b. Next week we will begin looking into “The Miracles Of Jesus.”
 - i. **Jn 5:36** “But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.”
 - c. This week we will be looking at that which Sister Cavin suggested I preach here for the congregation.
 - i. It is a fuller version of the sermon I did this last Sunday at the prison.
 1. “Counting The Cost”
3. There are many Christians in the world today.
 - a. Few actually counted the cost before they became Christians, yet that is exactly what Jesus expected us to do, but why?
 - i. The answer is simple, we do not live in a world that will ever be without darkness or sin.
 1. **Jn 3:19** “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”
 - ii. Because sin will be in this world Jesus knew His children would have to come mentally prepared, however Jesus knew not every Christian would be prepared.
 1. **Mk 4:16-19** “And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”
4. So today we ask the question “have you counted the cost?”
 - a. If you counted the cost before you became a Christian than this will be a good refresher.
 - b. If you did not count the cost before you became a Christian than this will be a good eye opener.
5. With these things in mind let us examine our lesson.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Counting The Cost

I. Non-Christians Are Expected To Count The Cost

- A. Jesus taught who had the ultimate responsibility
 - 1. **Lk 14:28** “For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?”
 - 2. **Lk 14:31** “Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?”
- B. Non-Christian have the ultimate responsibility
 - 1. We sing the song “You Never Mentioned Him To Me.”
 - i. This song points to those lost in sin that “we know” that we never taught the gospel.
 - a. It is a very sobering song to say the least.
 - 2. Jesus is teaching that non-Christians are responsible to count the cost.
 - i. They won’t be able, on the day of judgment, to say “You Never Mentioned This To Me.”
 - 3. This does not excuse Christians from explaining to the cost
 - i. I am convinced that some of the wayward Christians of today could have been prevented had the cost of Christianity been explained better.
 - a. We who have “felt the cost” of Christianity ought to take the time to help those considering being Christians.
 - 1. We often tell of the joys, peace, and over all greatness of being a Christian.
 - 2. We often forget to explain the all-out assault Satan puts on those that become Christians.
- C. Non-Christians have the ultimate responsibility to “count the cost.”
 - 1. Jesus taught the cost...
 - i. **Lk 9:23** “And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself...”
 - 2. Jesus taught that denying oneself is renouncing all that one has.
 - i. **Lk 14:33** “So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”
- D. Thus...
 - 1. There will be no Christian on that great day, who uses the excuse “I didn’t know it would be so hard,” that will be able to escape their judgment.

II. Christians Are Expected To Count The Cost

- A. Jesus taught we are to “daily” count the cost as Christians
 - 1. **Lk 9:23** “And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him...take up his cross daily and follow me.”
- B. Counting the cost daily does not mean...
 - 1. I have to make sure I go to college and get a degree.
 - 2. I have to make sure I secure a well-paying job.
 - 3. I have to make sure I have plenty of money in a 401(k).
 - 4. I have to make sure I have plenty of money in a savings account.
 - i. Many think these are the things God is looking for us to do.
 - a. “I used to think the most important thing I could do to please God would be to live a safe, responsible life; where

Counting The Cost

“responsible” meant I went to college, got good grades, secured a well-paying job, put plenty of money in my 401(k) and in savings.”²

- ii. This isn't to suggest that these things are wrong or are irresponsible.
 - a. However they are not the “cost” Christians are to be concerned with.

C. Counting the cost daily does mean...

- 1. To put Christ over everything and everyone in our life.
 - i. **Lk 14:33** “So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”
 - ii. **Lk 9:62** “Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’ ”
 - iii. **Ph 3:7-8** “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ”
- 2. That means putting Christ over...
 - i. Comfort Zones
 - a. **II Ti 1:7** “for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”
 - ii. Finances
 - a. **Mk 10:17-22** “And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’ ” 20 And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” 21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”
 - iii. Family
 - a. **Lk 14:26** “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.”
 - b. **Mt 10:37** “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

D. Thus...

- 1. Christians are expected to ask themselves each day, “I’m I willing to bear the cross today?”

² “What If God Doesn’t Want You to Be Responsible?” by Erin Halsne <http://goo.gl/1AC5sJ>

Counting The Cost

CONCLUSION

1. Brothers and sisters if we don't count the cost of faithfulness we will fall short of the ultimate goal which is eternity with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.
 - a. Make sure you are counting the cost every single day!!!
2. Question: Have you counted the cost and are you willing to take up your cross today?
 - a. For Christians who have done so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - i. For Christians that have not...why haven't you?
 - b. For those that have not obeyed God's plan of salvation have you considered what was said and are you willing to take up the cross each and every day starting today?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**