

The Christ, His Church, & The Cost—Part 4

“The Cost to Us”

Matthew 16:24-27

Salvation is the FREE Gift of God by Grace through Faith (cf. Eph. 2:8-10)

I. Our _____ (v. 24)

- a. Jesus' uses 3 third-person imperative verbs to tell us what His Disciples must do (cf. Matt. 16:21)
- b. Jesus' Disciple Must _____
 - i. This is NOT self-deprivation or legalism
 - ii. This means sacrificing your way & will and then seeking Jesus' as a living and holy sacrifice (cf. Matt. 6:33; Rom. 12:1)
- c. Jesus' Disciple Must _____
 - i. We aren't to take up "His" cross; instead, we are to take "our" cross
 - ii. Bearing a cross does not mean dealing with difficult situations or burdens; it means death to self (cf. John. 12:24; 2 Cor. 5:13-14; Gal. 2:20; 1 John. 3:16)
 1. We must not only say NO to ourselves; we must also say YES to all of Jesus, including His rejection, shame, suffering, and even death (cf. Phil. 2:9-11ff)
 - iii. There is NO Crown, without a Cross!
- d. Jesus' Disciple Must _____
 - i. Jesus never asked for a Decision; He demanded Disciples!
 - ii. Salvation is NOT just entering a small gate; its also following a narrow way (cf. Matt. 7:14)
 - iii. Long-term obedience is the greatest indication of Holy Spirit empowered heart transformation (cf. Matt. 10:37-39; Mark 8:34-35; Luke 9:23-27; 14:25-27; 17:33; John. 12:25; 14:15)
 - iv. Sadly, many will profess Jesus with their lips, but their hearts will be far away from Him (cf. Matt. 7:23; 15:8-9; Isa. 29:13; Jer. 3:10; Ezek. 22:27)

II. Our _____ (v. 25-26)

- a. We will all be tempted like the seeds from the Parable of the Sower to flee the world's persecution and/or run toward the world's lust (cf. Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23)
- b. The _____ of Death (v. 25; cf. Matt. 10:37-39; Luke 14:26-27)
 - i. If you fear losing this **life** and/or what you think makes it worth living, then you **will lose** eternal **life**.
 - ii. If your fear is outweighed by the eternal glory and reward to come, then you will **find** eternal **life**.
 1. "**No one can serve two masters...**" cf. Matt. 6:24ff)
- c. The _____ of Life (v. 26)
 - i. If you love the things of this world (i.e. Pleasure, Power, Prestige, Prosperity, Peace), more than you love Jesus; then you have nothing to exchange for your soul
 - ii. If you love Jesus more than this world, then He will exchange His righteous life for your life of sin (Matt. 6:19-21; 2 Cor. 5:21)
 1. "**I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**" (Phil. 3:7-10ff)

III. Our _____ (v. 27)

- a. Every Believer will face the Bema Seat of Christ Jesus to determine their rewards (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:13-15ff; cf. 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:8-10; Rev 22:12)
- b. But I believe Jesus is referring to His second Advent, when He will come to judge the earth and unbelievers (cf. Zech 14:5; Isa. 6:3; Ps. 62:12; 72:19; Prov. 24:12; Job 34:11; Eccl. 12:14; Jer. 17:10; 32:19; Matt. 10:23; 16:27; 24:3, 27, 37-39; 25:31-6; 26:64; Acts 1:11; Rom. 2:5-11; 14:12; 1 Cor. 3:8; 15:23; Gal. 6:7-10; 1 Thess. 1:10; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2:1, 8; 2 Tim. 4:14; James 5:7-8; 1 Peter 1:17; 2 Peter 1:16; 3:4, 12; 1 John. 2:28; Rev. 1:7; 2:23; 19:11-16; 20:12)