

"Counting The Cost"

Matthew 16:24-27

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

INTRODUCTION:

In order to truly follow, honor and serve God, We must consider the cost ("Count The Cost"). As a believer, we must...

- Carry the cross. Where to? Where are you carrying your cross?
In Pursuit of Jesus staying close to obey as he directs.
- Serve God by serving one another and serving God's people in the context of your local church. – work, school.
- Serve those who do not know Jesus yet. Do so with love and compassion but realize that it is impossible to follow God without counting the cost.

John 13:35

Matthew 16:

- Jesus exposes the falsehood and hypocrisy of the pharisees.
- Jesus asks his disciples – Who do you say I am?
- Jesus foretells – announces his death.
- Jesus rebukes Peter – "Get behind me Satan"
- Jesus discloses the cost of following Him.

Outline: "Counting The Cost" - Mathew 16:24-27

1) Matthew 16:24 Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross, And Follow Me

2) Matthew 16:25-26 Lose Your Life For My Sake

3) Matthew 16:27 I Will Return And Will Repay

Thought of The Passage: Jesus is very forthcoming when he discloses that if you wish to follow Him, you must count the cost, die to self, find new life in Him; and in faith believe that what He has in store for you far exceeds anything this world has to offer.

Two questions have been answered so far in Matthew 16.

Who is Jesus? – The Son of God

What is His Mission? – Redemption Through the Cross.

Those 2 items pertain to Jesus. Here is our opportunity to respond:

Before you start a project

Before you take a trip

Before you start a new business venture

Before you make a lifelong commitment to someone

In essence, Jesus is telling his disciples, - Before you chose to "Follow Me"
(Count the Cost).

3 initial conditions for discipleship:

1) Matthew 16:24 - Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross, And Follow Me

Matthew 16:24 - Discipleship Is Costly

1) Deny Himself. (Make a Definitive Decision)

Romans 12:1-2

We are called to give up the mindset and reasoning of our current culture. The Church is not to conform to the world.

Galatians 2:20

1 Peter 2:4-5

Dying to self means you must fight the urge to act on emotion.
Dying to self means submitting to the godly authority placed over you.
Dying to self means having a servant's heart.

2) And Take Up His Cross – (Accept Your Own Death)

Taking up your cross is part of "Counting The Cost"
How much is it costing you to follow Jesus?
Do you know what that cost is for you?
What is your cross to bear today?

Think about this: Jesus was asked to carry the very instrument of his death.

Taking Up The Cross = Physical Labor.

By Putting Your Hand On The Plow.

Luke 9:62

1 Corinthians 3:6

Some sow, some water, but God brings the increase.

3) And Follow Me. (In Constant Obedience)

"Obedience is better than sacrifice. (1 Samuel 15:22b)"

"And Follow Me" – This type of following cannot happen unless there is obedience.

Luke 9:57-62

Following Jesus implies a commitment to count the cost and to live in obedience. Jesus has singled you out and has called you by name.

Matthew 4:18-20

Do you remember that moment when Jesus called you? The moment you came to the conclusion that nothing is better than following Jesus and walking with him?

John 6:68-69 – Jesus, You alone have words of life.

2) Matthew 16:25-26 – Lose Your Life For My Sake

Matthew 16:25

Your life as a Christian does not begin until you take your first step into dying to self. This is when you identify with those qualities found in Jesus and you begin to associate and identify with His death and resurrection.

John 10:9-10 – Jesus Said – Present Life

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 – Paul Said – Present Life

Matthew 19:29 – Jesus Said – Eternal Life

John 3:16

Matthew 16:26

Jesus himself had an offer extended to him by Satan.

Luke 4:5-8

It is better to live a life of sacrifice that is focused on serving God and blessing others.

3) Matthew 16:27 - I Will Return And Will Repay

Matthew 16:27

Repay = Compensate, to reward.

Matthew 24:29-31 - The Glorious Return

Revelation 19:11-16 - The Coming of Christ

Reward of The Righteous:

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Matthew 25:21

Reward of The Unrighteous:

Revelation 20:11-15 - Judgment at the Throne of God

Conclusion: The Conditions Of Discipleship:

- 1** – Deny Yourself
- 2** – Take Up Your Cross
- 3** – Follow Me
- 4** – Lose Your Life

If you follow Jesus, give him your time, your talents and your service.

We are to be a blessing to the church body:

The church is the bride of Christ and the church is a family of believers. Here to encourage each other, to stir/spur each other up to good works, to correct and sharpen each other – that God would be glorified.

We are to be a witness, a testament, a proof of God's love, as disciples and followers of Jesus.

Application:

- 1)** Remember There Is A High Cost Associated With Following Jesus. It Will Cost You Everything. But Also Remember Nothing Compares To The Wonder Of Following Him.
- 2)** Have You Given Your Life To Christ? Have You Made A Commitment To Count The Cost, Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross, Follow Him, And Give Up Your Life For Him?
- 3)** Get Back To Basics, To What Really Matters In Life. To Know Jesus, To Make Him Known. The Share His Love As You Serve Him And Serve Others.
- 4)** Jesus Is Coming Soon, May He Find Us Busy On The Tasks He Has Entrusted To Us, And May He Find Us Being Faithful And In Obedience.