

## COUNTING THE COST

Text: Luke 14:25-33

INTRO: In this short passage the Lord made 2 shocking & arresting statements. First, He makes a statement that if taken literally would contradict several other passages. He does not mean that we are to literally hate anyone--but our love for Him is to be so great that by comparison all other love looks like hate.

Then not once but 3 times He says there are some who cannot be His disciples, vs. 26, 27, 33. This is a shocking revelation, but note that it is not a matter of pre-destiny but a matter of wrong attitude. The Lord has not excluded them. By their wrong priorities, they have excluded themselves. In a similar passage a few months earlier, Jesus had spoken of some who are "not fit for the kingdom" (LK 9:58-62). In this context, Jesus points to the importance of counting the cost.

### I. WHAT JESUS IS NOT DOING.

- A. He is not seeking to promote cowardice.
- B. He is not hoping to drive would-be disciples away.
  - 1. He has repeatedly invited, "Come to Me."  
Matt. 11:28; 22:4; John 1:43
  - 2. He lamented that many would not come, JN 5:40.
- C. He is not advising such a degree of caution as would lead to perpetual indecision. God has never encouraged indecision. Josh 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; James 1:8

### II. JESUS IS SIMPLY URGING HIS HEARERS TO APPLY THE SAME COMMON SENSE TO THIS COMMITMENT THAT THEY WOULD USE IN OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS OF LIFE .

- A. "What will I do with Jesus" is the most important question you will ever answer. MT 27:22. Don't make it lightly.
- B. Jesus made 2 comparisons: a man building a tower & a king going into battle.
- C. In Lancaster Co. just short of Leola, there is a bit of roadway that must have cost several thousands of \$. A right

of way was purchased, an overpass was built, the road widens out for perhaps 2/10 miles--all for a road that was never built, a monument to someone's poor judgment and/or poor planning.

- D. I remember reading of a sign someone had placed in their store window: "This is a non-profit organization. It wasn't meant to be, but it turned out that way."

### III. JESUS IS ASKING THE PERSON WHO WOULD FOLLOW HIM TO MAKE AN INTELLIGENT CHOICE, WITH EYES WIDE OPEN, WITH A REALIZATION THAT IT WILL BE COSTLY.

- A. Anything worthwhile has certain requirements involved, certain investments.

Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters, they see the works of the Lord, & His wonders in the deep. (Psa 107:23).

- B. Our following Jesus will be costly in terms of time, use of talents, influence. He doesn't want us to turn away--but neither does He want us to be disillusioned. He seeks more than our spare time & our loose change.
- C. Think what it cost Him--& His Father. JN 3:16; Rom 5:8
- D. God's question to Job: Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? (Job 41:1). Perhaps you can but what will you do then?
- E. But you cannot properly count the cost without weighing the benefits. Most things that are cheap are not bargains. Some things that are costly are tremendous values!
  1. Peace that surpasses understanding, Phil. 4:7
  2. Inexpressible joy, 1 Pet 1:8
  3. Brothers & sisters innumerable & in the world to come, eternal life. READ MARK 10:29-30.

IV. BEFORE YOU MAKE THE FINAL DECISION, COUNT THE COST OF NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

A. RYR in LK 18 kept all his possessions, but he was not happy. His riches cost him too much. He saved his money but he lost his soul.

B. Ananias & Sapphira in Acts 5 saved back part of what they pretended to give. Should we congratulate them on their thriftiness? No, their lie cost them far too much. They saved money, but lost their lives & their souls.

CONCLUSION: Several years ago a famous artist was spending a few days with some friends. A little girl in the family received a silk fan for her birthday & the artist told her, "If you will let me keep this for a while I'll paint a picture on it for you." She snatched it away, saying, "You can't spoil my beautiful fan." If she had left it in the artist's hands, he would have given it back to her worth a thousand times more than its original value. So Jesus comes, asking for your life & mine. If we give them to Him, He will give them back transformed into life abundant & everlasting.

Exton, PA, June 30, 1991

Coventry Hills, Pottstown, PA, July 31, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, February 16, 1997

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 2, 1998