

The Cost of BEING a Disciple of Jesus

When we think about the **COST** of something, we tend to compare that thing to its **VALUE** and decide whether we will **PAY** that cost. We typically don't think about what the value of following Jesus is, but to consistently pay the cost (because it truly is a daily cost,) we first must think about this.

The definition of Value is "The perceived worth of benefits that something has to offer."

- Questions: 1) What are the benefits that come with being a disciple of Christ?
2) What is the value of being a disciple of Jesus?

What are the Costs of Being a Disciple?

Luke 14:25-33 NASB "Now ^[m]large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me, and does not ^[h]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."

-Priority: What is more important to you? Jesus and His kingdom **MUST** be the priority to you over the things that are in your life.

- Matthew 6:31-33 ³¹ Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' ³² For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But ^[s]seek first ^[u]His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be ^[u]added to you. "

Jesus is telling his followers in the scripture what our priorities should be as disciples:

His Kingdom: The advancement of the gospel, the building of His Kingdom on earth (making disciples, edifying the body of Christ) being the light of the world.

His Righteousness: building the Holy character that it takes to be a citizen of the Kingdom of GOD.

Seeking out these two things should be the priority of a disciple.

-Constant focus on Pleasing God

- **2 Timothy 2:3-4** " ³ Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. "

Pleasing God must always be at the forefront of our minds as disciples. The “affairs of everyday life” that Paul as mentioning are the pleasures that the world seeks and values. These things can entangle us as followers of Jesus if we place great importance on them.

27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

- Carrying the Cross that Jesus has for you
 - The action of Sacrificing of the sake of Christ and His Kingdom Agenda
 - John the Baptist is a great example of one who’s life reflected the sacrifice of a disciple.
 - **John 21:18-22** *“18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.” 19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, “Follow Me!” 20 Peter, turning around, *saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” 21 So Peter seeing him *said to Jesus, “Lord, and what about this man?” 22 Jesus *said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!”*

We cannot compare the cross we have to bear to someone else and use that as justification of why we do not need to carry it.

28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends ¹⁰a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

- Consistent inventory of Cost Payments.

We all may be behind in the payment of some of the costs it takes to follow Christ

- Jesus regularly confronted His followers with what the true cost of what they signed up for is.
 - Many of His followers had the traditional idea of what the Messiah was and followed him to have earthly positioning and power.
 - Following Christ must not be for Selfish gain, but for a true relationship with Christ.