

IT COSTS TO FOLLOW CHRIST

Luke 14:25-33

Introduction: Jesus was very popular but mixed in with His popularity was opposition by religious leaders and misunderstanding of what Jesus' purpose was. A thousand years had passed since the last powerful prophet (Elijah) and the Jewish nation had been waiting all those years for the time God would send His great prophet. The people were tired of trying to keep the law and Jesus was bringing a new freshness from God and multitudes were getting stirred up, everyone was excited about this new "prophet," Jesus.

1. Jesus knew the real reasons for the multitudes follow Him.
 - He was feeding them, healing them, out of curiosity, His teachings were so different.
 - Jesus felt they needed to know the true cost if they wanted to continue to follow Him.
 - Family ties would be in danger - **vv25, 26**
 - There would be hate, love would have to be less for family members.
 - Family ties would have to be secondary to Jesus.
 - All family interests had to be subordinate to Jesus.
 - All loyalties subordinate to Jesus.
 - Following Jesus might even cost them their lives - **v27**
 - It was one thing to allow Jesus to come before their family.
 - It was quite different when one might be killed/
 - Bearing a cross was a common sight in Jesus time and death was common.
2. There were things to consider before following Jesus.
 - **vv 28-31** - Jesus wanted people to take time to consider the serious decision about following Him;
 - Not to be hasty.
 - The higher the cost, the more decision time needed.
 - When building a building, there would be plans, estimated costs, etc., all before even starting to build.
 - In war, there would be plans, strategies, materials, weapons, men, etc. to consider.
 - The decision to follow Jesus needed to be considered before action taken.
 - Allegiances are changed for Jesus comes first.
 - Hopes, wishes, wants are changed.
 - Values are changed, it is give, give, give, not get, get, get.
 - Money, material goods are not as important anymore.
 - Things once thought little of are now important parts of the new life with Jesus.
 - **vv29-30-** Jesus wanted the people to consider the consequences of following Him.
 - One has to just look around and can see unfinished buildings, houses, bridges, businesses, all because of the lack of adequate planning.

CONCLUSION:

1. To follow Jesus, one must place Jesus first, before any and all (**v33**).
2. Everything must come AFTER Jesus.
3. Is Jesus first in your life or is there something or someone taking you away from Jesus Christ?