

CALCULATING THE COST

Introduction – What does it cost to get a good education? What will it cost one to create a great family life? We are often focused more on the theoretical benefits and are not realistic about what it will cost.

A. Traveling with Jesus versus being a disciple

Luke 14:25-26

1. Large crowds are attracted to Jesus today, but according to Jesus they cannot be His disciple. ...*The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch* (Acts 11:26).
2. The expression "hate" is a dramatic Semitic expression.

Matthew 10:34-39

3. To successfully follow Jesus we must hate our own life or we cannot be His disciple.
4. Most people are religious because they believe it will benefit them and their family.

B. Starting but not completing our journey

Luke 14:27-30

1. It is very costly to actually follow Jesus.
2. Jesus sacrificed Himself for us on the cross. We also have the responsibility to carry our own cross.
3. Towers were built to protect crops from robbers in the first century. They were expensive; one should get a realistic estimate before starting construction.
4. What is it going to cost you to finish your spiritual journey?

C. We must make peace with God.

Luke 14:31-33

1. A wise King would not choose to go to war against an enemy when he is outnumbered two to one.
2. Making peace can be costly, but the alternative would be disastrous.

3. Why must we give up everything we have to be Jesus' disciple?

Conclusion – There are many “wannabe” disciples, but Jesus said they cannot be His disciple unless.... The paradox of our salvation is that it is a gift of God which cannot be deserved or earned. Yet it will cost us everything we have and hold dear to be Jesus' disciples.