

FOLLOWING JESUS - 2



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COUNTING THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

Introduction:

Jesus is calling all of us to follow Him today like He called His disciples then to follow Him – **Matt.4: 18-19; 9: 9.**

However, following Jesus can be very costly and painful – **Lk.14: 25-33.**

So, God challenges us to sit down first and count the cost of following Jesus lest we get half-way through and be stranded or drop off - **Lk.14: 28-33.**

Costs of Following Jesus:

Some of the costs of following Jesus are as follow:

1. The cost of leaving what you are doing - your work, project and programme - **Mk.1: 16-20** e.g. Moses, Elisha, Jonah, Matthew, Peter, Paul, etc.
2. The cost of giving up your dreams, plans and ambitions – **Lk.9: 57-62** e.g. Moses, Elisha, Jonah, Matthew, Peter, Paul, etc.
3. The cost of relocation (leaving where you are) e.g. Abraham (**Gen.12: 1-5**); Wives in marriage - Rebecca, Rachel & Leah (**Gen.24: 55-60; 31: 14-16**).
4. The cost of forsaking your loved ones – Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Jonah (same in marriage also) – **Gen.2: 24; 12: 1-5; Matt.10: 34-37.**
5. The cost of loss of liberty – **1Cor.3: 16; Rom.8: 1** e.g. Moses, Eli & Sons, King Saul, Uzzah, David, Job, Jonah, James & John, Peter, Paul, etc.

6. The cost of internal contradiction and confusion e.g. Abraham, Job, Zechariah, Joseph & Mary, John the Baptist - **Matt.11: 2-12.**

7. The cost of being forced or dragged along - **Gal.5: 17** e.g. Lot, Moses, Job, Jonah, Peter, Paul, etc.

8. The cost of being misunderstood and tagged crazy by others – **Amos 3: 3; Isa.55: 8-9** e.g. Abraham, Job, Zechariah, Joseph & Mary.

9. The cost of tribulation and persecution – **Matt.10: 22; Jn.16: 33; 2Tim.3: 12.**

10. The cost of being stretched to our limits (doing things beyond us) – **Hab.2: 4; Rom.1: 17; Gal.3: 11; Heb.10: 38** e.g. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah (**Jer.1: 6-8**); Paul (**2Cor.2: 16; 3: 5**).

11. The cost of uniqueness (no comparison) - **Ps.139: 14; 1Cor.4: 7; 2Cor.10: 12** and loneliness e.g. Abraham, Job, Jonah, John the Baptist, Peter, Paul, etc.

12. The cost of constant chastisement – **Ps.23: 4b; Heb.12: 6-8** e.g, Moses, Job, Jonah, Peter, etc.

13. The cost of dissatisfaction yet with submission without questions – **Jer.18: 16** e.g. Job, Prodigal son's senior brother, Hired labourers (**Matt.20: 1-16**).

14. The cost of lack of argument or negotiation – **Rom.9: 20** e.g. Abraham (**Gen.15: 1-6**); Peter (**Matt.9: 27**); The Hired Labourers (**Matt.20: 1-16**).

15. The cost of surprises and unexpected end – **Jer.29: 11** e.g. Jonah, The Hired Labourers (**Matt.20: 1-16**), Peter (**Jn.21: 15-24**), James & John (**Matt.20: 20-23**).

Conclusion:

There are several other costs of following Jesus that time and space will not allow us to cover. However, we must heed God's counsel by sitting down first and counting these costs of following Jesus.

Have you counted the cost of following Jesus? – **Lk.14: 28-33.**

That is the only way we will follow Him closely with joy without grumbling or murmuring and we will not be stranded or backslide - **Lk.9: 62; Lk.17: 32.**

May the Lord Himself help us to follow Him closely to the end!