

## Unexpected Pressure - Unprepared Character

### Count the Cost

Life in America is just soft enough that we don't often have to wrestle with this question as we are beginning our relationship with God in Christ. This means that if we run from this question because it is hard or uncomfortable then even small challenges to our faith become temptations to compromise our faith. Can we honestly say that we are ready for the big challenges?

Scripture(s): Luke 14:25-33; John 6:66; Matthew 10:24-25; John 13:14-15; 15:20-21

October 24, 2021

"How Great Thou Art"

"Trust and Obey"

"Worthy of Worship"

\* Pastoral Prayer & Time in the Word \*

"Sunshine in My Soul"

I. The first cost that separates the merely curious from the real disciple is the cost of \_\_\_\_\_. One way we know how much we love something or someone is by how \_\_\_\_\_ we hold on to it.

Matthew 10: 34 " Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I came to set A man against his father, and A daughter against her mother, and A daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36 and A man's enemies will be the members of his household. 37 " He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

II. The second cost that separates the merely curious from the real disciple is the cost of \_\_\_\_\_ carrying. Disciples count the cost and decide in advance that living Jesus' way is worth \_\_\_\_\_ he asks of us.

III. The third cost that separates the merely curious from the real disciple is the cost to become \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Being a follower means that living like and living for Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ we really want.

Matthew 10: 24 " A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!

John 13: 14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.

John 15: 20 Remember the word that I said to you, ' A slave is not greater than his master. ' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

Remember this - Jesus asks us to count the cost of following Him because life and \_\_\_\_\_ are before us.

Our challenge: Look carefully at your life to see if you have clearly decided what Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

1. Identify carefully what keeps you from saying \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.
2. Is giving up yourself to follow Jesus your \_\_\_\_\_ practice?
3. Let your \_\_\_\_\_ declare how you will live.