

COUNTING THE COST STUDY

This is a little different kind of study. We will go to one main scripture but it is mostly a time of asking questions to make sure a person understands and is ready to become a disciple—a true Christian.

A. Luke 14:25-33

- a. *“or you cannot be my disciple”*—this phrase shows us that Christianity comes with a standard which is God’s standard.
- b. *“count the cost”* or *“estimate the cost”*—this phrase shows that Jesus wants us to think through the decision we are making.
- c. Two Illustrations
 - 1) Building a house...the main point...it’s a lifetime decision
 - 2) Two kings going to war...main point...surrender/give up everything

QUESTIONS

1. Why do you want to become a Christian?
 - a. Answer to include love for God / Jesus died for me
 - b. This is the only thing that will keep people faithful for a lifetime!
2. Do you understand how to become a Christian?...explain it to me.
 - a. Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptism
3. Do you understand who is and who is not a true Christian?...explain it to me.
 - a. Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptism
 - b. Not just true for you. If in the Bible, then true for everyone.
4. Do you understand that there is only one church? Who is a part of this one church?
 - a. Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, Baptism
 - b. When baptized into Christ we are also baptized into the one body (the church)...we become the church at that point!
 - c. Visa situation?
5. What is the commitment you are making to the body?
 - a. Specific times when body meets together.
 - b. Devotionals, Discipling Groups, Workshop weekends, Conferences, etc.
 - c. Ready and willing to make these 1st priority?
6. Are you ready to repent of all your sin?
 - a. What will be the top 2 or 3 challenges in your life...what is your plan?
7. Are you willing to make Jesus and his church # 1 over family and friends?
 - a. Ready for possible persecution, hardships, rejection, etc.?
 - b. Ready to actively love your family more than ever before? (love less but love more!)
8. Are you willing to excel in work / school without putting them in 1st priority?
 - a. Any work/school conflicts? What is your plan?
9. Ready to put your love life (marriage or dating) into God’s guiding hands?
 - a. God’s plan is to date and marry disciples/Christians only. Do you understand?
 - b. What is your plan for your situation?
10. Ready to develop your personal relationship with God?
 - a. Daily food is needed to be strong physically and spiritually...prayer & Bible Study—Quiet Times
11. Are you ready to contribute toward the work and needs of the church?
 - a. Work of the church is to seek and save the lost and to keep the saved saved.
 - b. Between you and God...Bible talks about giving first fruits (10%)
 - c. New Testament says giving is to be sacrificial and cheerful.

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12. Do you understand and do you embrace your new mission in life as a Christian?
 - a. Mission is to help others become disciples...sharing your faith and your life, studying the Bible with others
 - b. What is your plan? (family, friends, co-workers, etc.)
13. Ready to have the mindset of a disciple?
 - a. Once a disciple, always a disciple...a life commitment.
 - b. A learner all our lives...discipling
 - c. Discipleship Partners...a method of implementing commands of God (who?)
 - d. Supportive and submissive to leadership (Bible is the final authority)
14. What will be the greatest cost / change / challenge in becoming a disciple/Christian?
 - a. Is there anything we need to talk about that we haven't talked about?
15. Are you willing to make Jesus the Lord of your whole life?
 - a. Having a go-anywhere, do anything, give up everything attitude.

B. Counting the Cost is good and right but we need to make sure a person is left with the correct kind of thinking—Do you realize that there is really NO COST?

- a. The penalty for our sin has already been paid.
- b. The grace (free gift) of God saves completely.
- c. That is what saves us—not the works (saved FOR good works, not saved BY good works *Eph. 2:10*)
- d. We do all the above out of our love and appreciation for God/Jesus.
- e. Our commitment does not save us...we are committed because we are saved!
- f. Our attitude is not ... "I have to do" but "I GET TO DO" ...thank God I can now live the life I was created to live.

C. When do you want to get right with God?

- a. Suggest a prayer walk...talk to who they need to talk to...be urgent! Decide!