

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Cost of Discipleship” Luke 14

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 14: 25-33

### 1. Requirements of Christian discipleship

- A. Jesus must be the King in our life:** In this episode we see a large crowd following Lord Jesus [v. 25]. And He addressed to them about the requirement of the Christian discipleship [v. 26]. The first requirement has to do with **the priority of relationship:**

*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. [v. 14: 27]*

Anyone who desires to be a true Christian, he/she must have Lord Jesus above all others including oneself. What does this mean? It is a total realignment of one’s relational priorities. Jesus demands the highest place in our life because He is the King of kings, the Lord of lords. Lord Jesus sits on the throne in our life and we come to hate anything that tries to hamper this relationship.

Does anyone in your family try to prevent you from going to the church on Sundays by laying upon you obligations involving them, even your own family members or your golf friends? Did any of you have to go through a painful experience of divorce because your wayward wife hated your Christian testimony? Do you see a cost of lost revenues from your business when you keep the business closed on Sundays? We must learn to hate all such elements and choose Jesus above all else to become ‘true’ Christians.

- B. We must carry our cross for Christ:** The second requirement has to do with **dying to self.**

*And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. [v. 14: 28]*

What does “bearing of the cross” mean to Christians? When Lord Jesus said this teaching to the large crowd, this was before He was crucified. But the people of Israel knew what ‘bearing a cross’ meant well because the Romans had crucified hundreds of Israelis sometime before Jesus’ ministry on account of a rebellion by the Jews. They had seen these so-called rebels carrying their crosses to the site of their death by crucifixion.

Those who bore the cross walked while carrying the symbol of their death to the place of their death. Did Lord Jesus mean they had to carry their crosses to their physical death? Apostle Paul explained what this means more clearly as follows:

*But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. [Gal. 6: 14]*

*For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. [Phil. 1: 21]*

To Paul, the cross of Lord Jesus meant his ‘death to the world’ and ‘death to himself.’ In other words, he voluntarily chose the path of dying to the world and dying to his own plans and desires so that Christ might be alive in his life as his King and Lord.

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [1 Corinthians 1: 18]*

The Christian gospel demands that we live to Christ only and die to the world and to self. And this is a ‘foolish’ message to the perishing people of the world, but it is a message of true blessing and happiness to those who seek God’s truth from their hearts. And such people are saved through the ‘power of God,’ which enables us to carry our own cross daily as a glad choice for Jesus.

## 2. **Count the cost of our salvation:**

Jesus paid the ransom price for our salvation so that we might be saved from sin and death and become God's children. Then, what is the cost we have to pay to 'earn' this salvation? In the parable of a tower builder, Lord Jesus tells us that a person who sets out to build a tower must first carefully examine if he has enough resources to finish his construction project [v. 28-30]. In other words, he must first 'count the cost' before building lest his building must stop when his resources run out.

He also said the parable of a king facing an invader who would seek the terms of peace if his own force is assessed to be insufficient to meet and to triumph over the invading force [v. 31-32]. The key concepts in these two parables are 'insufficiency' and 'terms of peace.'

- A. *What we have is not enough:*** God wants us to 'sit down and consider' what will eventually come to our life and realize that what we have on our own are not enough to see the enemy of eventual death and be saved from it for eternity.

*For God made my heart weak, And the Almighty terrifies me [Job 23: 16]*

When we are terrified through an experience and come to a stark realization that what we have is not enough, what should we do? We are invited to come to Jesus Christ and have our insufficiency filled with the abundant riches of God and of Jesus Christ:

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [Matt. 11: 28]*

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. [John 10: 10]*

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. [Ephesians 3: 20-21]*

*And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. [1 Timothy 1: 14]*

- B. *Seek the terms of peace with God through Jesus Christ:*** When the fascist nations met the ends of their fighting resources toward the end of WWII, they were told by the Allies to 'surrender unconditionally.' What are the terms of peace that God gives us when we count the cost and find ourselves no match to the enemy of death that will rob everything from us? Lord Jesus stated the terms of peace as;

*So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. [v. 33]*

Forsaking all that we have that prevent us from honoring and worshipping Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and taking up and bearing a cross of our own choice to die in self and to the world so that we can follow Christ—this is the requirement of the Christian discipleship. This is the cost of the discipleship that we must pay on our side of the equation of salvation. God has done His part and now it is time for us to choose and do our part.

### *Topics of Discussion:*

- 1. Do you think the cost of the Christian discipleship has changed over the centuries? If so, what is the basis for such an argument? If not, are you willing to bear the cost?*
- 2. What is the cross you are bearing for Christ in your life? How has the Lord helped you to bear it?*