



## Cost of the Disciple

Many of us have made a commitment to the Lord, and we have seen others that have, but not many people have a concept or have considered that there are **costs to that decision**. Most folks believe that it is cozy and bliss after salvation. This is true only if we remain converts and not disciples.

**There is a cost associated with being a disciple.** If you have never given up anything, you are most probably not a disciple. There is **a loss** associated with following the Lord. You may not like that, but it is true. If you haven't suffered any loss or let go of anything because of your relationship with Jesus and you are a disciple, then it's coming.

Furthermore, this loss or cost is not one time. You will be faced with situations of loss in your life; things that will cost you such as:

- i) Life
  - ii) Family
  - iii) Wife
  - iv) Husband
  - v) Friends
  - vi) Career
  - vii) Money
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- a) Salvation is free, and yet it costs you your very life. You receive it freely at no expense to you, but once you receive it, **you have just committed everything you are and have to Jesus Christ.**
  - b) **Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you everything!**
  - c) **How much are you willing to give up for Jesus? How far are you willing to go to suffer loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus? If Jesus is not the Lord of your life but just**

your Savior, you are not ready to give up things for the Lord. Many believers have made Jesus their Savior, but not their Lord.

Luke 14:26-33 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth ambassadors, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

- a) Notice the cost is for a *disciple*, not necessarily a *believer*. We are all called to be disciples. Therefore, we are all expected to be ready for the price(s) that might come as a result of being a disciple.

There are four aspects of the cost of the disciple in these verses:

#### A. Hatred of our lives and our family

- a) These verses are not advocating hatred. Our families are the closest and the dearest to us.
- b) Family is the number one vital relationship that we have. If some will compromise, most people will do it for their family.
- c) Here Jesus is touching the most sensitive and critical aspect of our lives.
- d) Our love for the Lord has to be much greater and superior to our family.
  - i) We should prefer, esteem, value, honor, and reverence Him above any other relationship.
- e) Are you willing to walk away from family if they stand in the way of your relationship with the Lord? Are you ready and willing to suffer that loss?

f) Mat 10:35-38 “For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother **more than me** is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter **more than me** is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”

i) This passage is speaking about loving the Lord more than our father, mother, or children.

ii) It is through losing our lives that we truly find it.

### B. Carrying or bearing our cross

a) Jesus says that we should come after Him—**pursue Him**. He is speaking about self-denial and dependency on God, exalting Him, not ourselves.

b) Jesus died for us on the cross. As we walk with the Lord, we should die daily to ourselves. It is not enough to carry our cross; we are then encouraged to follow Jesus.

c) This is not onetime but a daily thing. The challenges we encounter such as denial, sacrifice of certain things, and persecution are typical of our cross.

i) Sickness, disease, and poverty are not descriptive of the cross.

### C. Counting the cost

a) Many times, people cannot finish their race because they never counted the cost. They did not understand that there is a cost attached to their commitment.

b) **True commitment has a cost to it, or else it is not a commitment.**

c) Devotion to the Lord has a price. We should be aware.

### D. Forsaking all

We are called to forsake all for Jesus. Not just a few or what we do not like but ALL.

## 1. Paul

Philippians 3:7-11 "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

- a) Paul understood that knowing the Lord will have a cost associated with it. He knew that knowing the Lord and the power of his resurrection and the **fellowship of His suffering**.
- b) **Paul suffered loss. He gave up his** earthly accolades and achievements.
  - i) Circumcised the eighth day,
  - ii) of the stock of Israel,
  - iii) of the tribe of Benjamin,
  - iv) a Hebrew of the Hebrews;
  - v) as touching the law, a Pharisee;
  - vi) Concerning zeal, persecuting the church;
  - vii) touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
- c) These verses make it clear that there will be a cost or loss associated with being or becoming a disciple. More opposition will come to the disciple than to a convert, but one thing is certain of Paul; he gained much more than he ever gave up. This is true for all of us. We will soon or later gain more than we give up.
- d) 2 Timothy 4:5 "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."
  - i) We are to endure afflictions because they will come. Why would the Lord be telling us to endure that which will never happen?

**Illustrations:**

**a) Football/Soccer**

In the very first five years of my becoming a Christian, I had a strong passion for playing professional football (soccer Player), and I was pursuing the same. I had seen some success through playing for my college. I'm not trying to blow my trumpet, but I truly believe I was really good and I could have made it far. As I went on this pursuit, the Lord revealed to me that the direction I was taking was not the one He wanted me to take. Becoming a Christian cost, me becoming a professional footballer, but the truth remains that I gained more. In hindsight, I'm so thankful that I followed the Lord. What I am doing today is a million times more fulfilling than football could have been. Thank you, Jesus.

**b) Muslim friend that became a believer**

When I was in India, I met a guy who was from Sudan that later became a friend. He was a Muslim, but he received Jesus, and when the family back home knew of it, they quickly neglected and disowned him. He had to give up his family to follow Jesus. Following Jesus has a cost to it and those who believe otherwise have missed the teaching from scripture. Nonetheless, Mark 10:30 gives us a promise for this life for giving up and suffering loss for the cause of Christ.

**2. Persecution**

a) 2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

- i) For disciples, persecution will come. We have to be careful not to suffer loss foolishly and label that as a cost of the disciple.
- ii) Our loss and cost should not be self-inflicted through sin and then labeled as cost and loss for Christ and the Gospel.

b) 1 Peter 4:12-16 "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief,

or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

- i) It is not strange to experience suffering. This suffering is referring to persecution.
  - We have been redeemed from sin, poverty, sickness, and disease—not Persecution which is a result of living a godly life and following after Jesus.
- ii) We can suffer for good or for evil doing. There is suffering or persecution that happens for godliness and one that happens for living ungodly and in sin.
  - We should be rejoicing in the former rather than the latter. We should not suffer for doing wrong. That is not God's will for us neither does it glorify God.
- iii) Paul uses the word “Beloved.” In other words, he is saying we need to “be loved” especially when going through suffering for righteousness sake. We are loved by God regardless of what we go through. We need to always remember we are loved even when all hell breaks loose.
- iv) Rejoice! When we are experiencing any kind of difficulty, suffering, and hardship, we need to rejoice with exceeding joy. Why? Because we are partakers of Christ's suffering. It's an honor to be partakers of the sufferings of our Lord, God, and Savior. This is one reason why we should rejoice.
  - Acts 5:40-41 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. [41] And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.
- v) It's an honor to be reproached for the name of Christ. We should not shy away from it. The Spirit of the Lord is doubly with us when we experience any reproach for Christ's sake. For that reason, we ought to rejoice.

- It is not shameful to suffer for righteousness sake. This kind of suffering we should take with joy.
- vi) Although some are speaking evil of the Spirit of God, to us He is being glorified.
- vii) It may not look like so but in the spiritual realm, God is being gloried. This can be seen in one way. The church grows rapidly when it is being persecuted and reproached. Believers begin to fully trust in the Lord putting everything on the line.

### 3. Soldiers

- a) 2 Timothy 2:3-4 "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."
- i) Soldiers give up a lot.
- ii) There is a cost to become a soldier.
- iii) They give up their rights.
- iv) There are losses and costs involved in this decision of becoming a soldier. Although there are some benefits to it, there remains the cost and loss involved.

### Conclusion:

For us to think that being born again is to have all life challenges and difficulties go away is deception. The scriptures prove otherwise over and over.

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