

COUNTING THE COST

Resurrection Bible Study Ministry, Nigeria.

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Topic:

COUNTING THE COST

Bible Text: Luke 14:25-33

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Prayer

Father in the mighty name of Jesus. We glorify and adore Your name , thank You for each and everyone of us present, as we begin our bible study may the Holy spirit come and reign till the end, we shall continue to praise and glorify Your name for in Jesus precious name we have prayed. Amen

Study

I welcome you all to tonight's study in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I trust we are all doing well. I pray that the Lord will speak to each and everyone of us directly as we swim into the truth of His word, tonight's study is a kind that is very important to be taught in every true Churches of Christ, if we must prepare ourselves and others to make heaven, as a preacher and as a believer who is journeying to the kingdom of God you must not take tonight's study casual, that is why I would like you to open up the channels of your spirit to receiving from the Holy Ghost tonight.

Luke 14:25-32 KJV

And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, [26] 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. [27] And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. [28] For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it ? [29] Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, [30] Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. [31] 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? [32] Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. [33] So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

The scripture says that a great multitude followed Christ, The Lord has been moving from one place to another healing all kinds of sicknesses and performing all kinds of miracles, so this had called for the attention of the crowd, not because they wanted to really know how to enter the kingdom of God but because of the miraculous deed. Jesus knowing that the presence of a multitude does not always mean approval, He knew them following Him does not mean that they know what it takes to be with Him,

He decided to teach them one of the essential lessons of discipleship. He told them to count the cost, saying if anyone comes to Him and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and his own life also he cannot be His disciple. By this the Lord tells us that the major requirements for gaining admission into Christ's school of discipleship is —"forsaking all". This school is different from our theological schools where we go to without even knowing what it takes to follow Christ before gaining admission. This school is a type where you must have an idea of what you want to get yourself into before entering, from the statement above which the Lord Jesus Christ made we know that without this requirement no one can be His disciples. Then a complimentary qualification is "denial". Anyone who wants to follow Him must learn the art of denial before he will be able to follow Him and how would he do that?, he must sit down to count the cost.

Luke 14:28-29 KJV

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it ? [29] Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

In the above verses we see Christ's illustration here on how we are to count the cost of following Him. It is not all about sitting to hear the word of God or even going to watch people perform miracles at the stadium or at crusade grounds, it is beyond one having a bible school certificate, even being a professor of theology does not qualify anyone to be Christ's disciple. Any man who has not sat down to count the cost of his decision to follow Christ cannot follow him successfully. In today's 21st century churches the reason we have the highest rate of unserious Christians is because people are just being gathered to have a large congregation so as to be receiving money and this set of people are not told to count the cost of following Christ because they would leave the church, which means that most churches are not gathering members to be Christ's disciples but church members or pastor followers. Assuming the cost of discipleship is being taught today in churches many churches will be scanty and of course the bible says that few be they that finds the way that leads to eternal life. According to the requirements listed here by Christ we can see that they are into phases and those two must be complete in our decision making to qualify.

1. Forsaking all

2. Bearing your own cross

Through Christ's teaching here we know that we must first have the knowledge of these so as to weigh our decisions correctly. Many are not even sure of what they are into that is why they are being ridiculed by the world and being made to know that they are not different from them. We must sit down to ask ourselves these important questions "am I ready to forsake everything?" "am I ready to suffer for Christ?" We have to know that suffering for Christ is suffering for what one on a normal day would not suffer for if one does not follow Christ. The truth is that in these last days only those who understand

the cost of discipleship and can count the costs that will be able to make it to Heaven because someone who does not know it would see no reason why he would not join the multitude and would also not see any reason not to enjoy the pleasures this world has to offer so they will see suffering as what is not meant for Christians, of course, that is what many are already being taught these days that as a Christian you're not to suffer, that in fact poverty is a sin. These are the kind of Christians being bred today who can not stand for Christ at any point in time. Long suffering, endurance, patience, perseverance and other Christian virtues such as these are no longer taught because they are seen as things that are meant for unbelievers and not for Christians because Jesus Christ has paid it all.

1. Forsaking all for Christ: when talking about forsaking all in this context it simply means making every other thing a second choice. (Apology to those not in Nigeria). For those in Nigeria, I don't know about other countries we know that if you want to register for entrance examination(Jamb) into the university you'll be asked to pick first choice institution and second choice institution, if you want to be admitted you'll be considered for admission mostly in that first choice institution. There are some institutions that would not admit anybody who chooses them as second choice because this is interpreted as a form of downgrade to their standard. That is how it is with Christ, He is our maker, so for you placing him as a second option means that you have downgraded Him on the scale of preference of your life. Jesus said you must hate everyone you love and is of high esteem to you and not only that; you must hate your own life. Hate in this context does not mean to think evil of people or seek their harm, but to place Christ above them to make Christ the first and final option when it comes to choosing between Him and them. It also means that even your own life should not matter to you than Him so if it will take you dying because of Him then you die! happily. Hmmm.

It means to seek to do Christ's commandments more than what anyone, anywhere may say, it means not following any other person's counsel whenever it is against God's will. There are some people who are so attached to their loved ones to the point that they do not want to do anything to displease them, even when these set of people tells them to follow them to worship other gods they will go even as it is against God's command. Deuteronomy 13:6-8 KJV *If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; [7] Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; [8] Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:*

Some people love their spouse more than God, some it is their job that they have placed above Christ. They hardly have time for the word and prayer, some worship their pastors, and does not have any regard for Christ as if it is their pastors that died for their sins. I am not saying you are not to respect your pastor or honor your pastors but we must realise that, whatsoever even our pastor says that is against God's

commandments should be discarded. There are many associations these days that a lot of people are into which has made them not to be able to stay with Christ because they do not want to be inferior. I've heard of a church that has football session, there's a time to discuss football, so each members would go to the corner allocated for his own club to discuss about matches and they will put on their football jerseys. Some are still in churches such as this because they are afraid to lose their membership, these ones don't understand what it means to follow Christ yet.

There are some people who prefer to keep peers than Christ, they know the truth of the word of God but do not want to obey because they will be excluded from the caucus of friends, they prefer to avoid being called several kinds of names, they choose to flow with trends.

As Christians our stand to do God's will always must be firm even at the face of whatever people may say. When you are told to renounce Christ because you are the only one who is saved in your family, would you renounce Him? If you are deprived of special privileges at home, school and at work because of your stand in the faith, should you choose to compromise or stand with Christ and not comply by the standard set by the world? When faced with threats of death if you do not comply with the world's standard that kicks against God's commandments should you compromise. Would you not preach against abortion, lesbianism, homosexuality, etc because they have been passed into laws as appropriate? Would you succumb because you want to be loved by men and also escape being sanctioned by the government? No!, You are not to, you have to hold on. Christ said we must be ready to forsake all, even our reputations if we must be His disciples. The moment we choose to follow Christ, we must choose to forsake all even to the things we own, down to riches, clothes, houses, jobs among others and begin to concentrate on the things above, the glory that is set before us in heaven. We should not gather treasures here on earth. If truly we are heaven conscious acquiring wealth here on earth will be so unnecessary to us, we would not be like the rich young ruler Luke 18:22 KJV **Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.**

When there are still things we still hold on to and cannot forsake for Christ's sake, then it means we are not ready to follow in. We must have quick response to His call just like His disciples. Matthew 4:19-20 KJV **And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. [20] And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.** Matthew 4:22 KJV **And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.** That is the kind of response God wants from those who want to follow Him, leave every other things behind you and follow Him. Therefore, at this time you must be able to sit down and think that "am I ready to forsake pornography, fornication, robbery, adultery, embezzlement, selfish ambitions, evil company, jobs like businesses that does not please God in order to follow Christ" Some people are called by God into ministry but because they are already successful men in their businesses they decide not to answer the call of God upon their lives all these are still entangled with the things of the world

and they're not ready to be Christ disciples yet. You must know that it is very hard, it is not easy at all, so by this you would know what you're getting into, the way is narrow, in fact it is too narrow that if you get fat with the pleasures and things of this world, it will not contain you.

It is The Holy Spirit that makes this journey easy for every child of God but for the fact that you will not face any challenge, persecutions, tribulations, is not possible, suffering is part of the packages that comes with Christianity, but we know that in all we are overcomers

2. Bearing your own Cross: this means readiness to suffer for Christ the act of suffering must be ready to be learnt. Those who are taught that the kingdom of God is a matter of eating and drinking are the ones who don't last in the journey of faith. The moment they begin to see and experience the opposite of what they were promised they would begin to faint in heart/spirit. To qualify to be Christ disciple you must be willing to take every suffering for His namesake with joy, that is, the desire to live godly in Christ must be in you and because of this desire you know that suffering is inevitable just as it is written in 2 Timothy 3:12 KJV **Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.** This means that in as much as you are not ready to be persecuted or suffer for Christ, do not even bother to follow Christ because you will call out. You cannot even be a disciple if you have not made up your mind to carry your own cross and follow Him. Christ said "if anyone wants to follow Him, this means without that requirement you cannot follow Him, because the moment you are not sure of yourself whether you are ready or not it means that you have not sat down to count the cost of what you want to embark on and your material will not be enough to complete it. Luke 14:28 KJV **For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?** For those following Christ it is like building a tower, they must know what it will take for them to complete their journey with Him. And Christ said he that endures to the end shall be saved not he that endures just halfway.

It is only those who have been able to sit down and count the cost and has decided to follow Christ that would have enough materials to complete the race in this end-time because they already know what to expect and have made up their minds to do no matter what it will take them to make heaven. The Muslim jihadist were taught the arts of counting the cost in a negative way which makes them kill themselves in suicide bombings, because they were promised false eternal riches with virgins, and they lay down their lives to their own destruction just because of what they were made to believe, yet we have Christians who cannot suffer a day hunger, or humiliation, or even stand to be cheated for Christ's sake just because most churches are not doing their work. Despite that we are the ones who has the original promises of eternal life, we find it hard to contend for and are not ready to lay down our own lives for the sake of the gospel. Some preachers even preach that you don't have to die for Christ's sake because Christ has died for you as their members now see every opportunity to be partakers of Christ's suffering as an avenue of compromise since Christ has suffered for them they prefer to do anything to save their own souls than to lose it for Christ's

sake we are in the end time and the Antichrist will soon emerge , those who do not know the act of counting the cost would think they have to receive the Mark to spare their own souls because they are not ready to be persecuted, tormented, suffer, lose their jobs, positions, properties, families, friends, even pulpits because they do not want to lose members so they would endorse the mark for themselves and others.

Jesus has sent us out as doves amidst wolves and we must be wise as serpent and gentle as doves to know how we ought to walk at this period of the age and also to know what it actually takes to follow Christ, we must be ready to carry our cross by dying totally to self. Some cannot do without food for ordinary 12 hours, how will these kind of people be able to stand and not deny Christ when serious problems begins to come up during the Great Tribulation? counting the cost is a lesson that must be taught in every Christian home, this must be made known to every member of our family. It important to make them know that whatsoever thing is done to afflict or inflict pain on them cannot be compared to the Glory that lies ahead if they endure to the end. 2 Timothy 2:10 KJV **Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.** We should not fear who can kill the body but can afterwards do nothing. Once we all know that we are not to always experience comfortability in our walk with Christ and even approval by men we would always be ready to face anything for Christ sake.

In conclusion,

Matthew 19:27 KJV **Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?** Peter was forced to ask this question because they had forsaken everything to follow Christ just the way we are all expected to forsake everything to follow Christ, then Jesus Christ gave him a reply about what they should be expecting as a reward but I tell you that the reward that we would receive is far much greater than even the price we are paying. Sometimes ago, the Lord Jesus Christ revealed to a sister in revelation what the new earth that's the saints would possess will look like and she confessed that there's no price anyone on earth can pay on earth that worth's what God has prepared for us, so even if we die for Christ it does not still worth it so why should we not prepare? Why should we still hold the things of this world and even our lives in high esteem than Christ?. 1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV **But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

May the Lord Jesus Christ help us to count the cost and make the right decision to follow Him daily in Jesus name. Amen

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19. His Healing Wings	130. The Intercessory Ministry
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101. The Mightiness Of God	56. The Good Pleasure of His Will
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103. Who Is This Jesus?	58. Fighting Against the Dangerous spirits of the End-Time (March, 2021)
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