

“estimate the cost”

Luke 14:25-35

“estimate the cost”

Luke 14:25-27

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: **26** “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, even their own life — such a person cannot be my disciple. **27** And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

“estimate the cost”

“Luke pointed out that the people were still attracted to Jesus. The conditions of discipleship that follow were not addressed to believers in order to make them apostles but to the crowds. They are therefore conditions for salvation, not conditions for Christians to become a spiritual elite or to reach a new level in their Christian lives.”

Robert Stein

“estimate the cost”

“[In verse 27] Jesus made this statement to get the crowds to think through their enthusiasm for Him.

He encouraged those who were superficial either to go deeper or turn back. Following Christ means total submission to Him-perhaps even to the point of death.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“estimate the cost”

Luke 12:49-53

49 “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! **50** But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! **51** Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.

52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. **53** They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

“estimate the cost”

“A person who commits himself or herself to Christ will develop a greater love for both neighbor and family, although at times loving and following Christ may be seen as renunciation, rejection, or hate if the family does not share the same commitment to Christ.”

Robert Stein

“estimate the cost”

Luke 9:23-26

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

“estimate the cost”

Luke 14:28-30

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? **29** For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, **30** saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’”

“estimate the cost”

“Will [we] abandon the Christian life after a little while because we did not count the cost of commitment to Jesus? What are those costs? Christians may face the loss of social status or wealth?”

[We] have to give up control of our money, our time, our career. [We] may be separated from our family, and even put to death. Following Christ does not mean a trouble-free life. We must carefully count the cost of becoming Christ's disciples so that we will know what were getting into..."

“estimate the cost”

Luke 14:31-32

31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? **32** If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

“estimate the cost”

“Jesus did not want a blind, naïve commitment that expected only blessings. As a builder estimates the cost or a king evaluates military strength, so people must consider what Jesus expects of His followers before they commit their lives to Him.”

NIV 2011 Study Bible

“estimate the cost”

Luke 14:33-35

33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples. **34** “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? **35** It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

“estimate the cost”

Philippians 3:7-14

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. **10** I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

11 and so, somehow, attaining to
the resurrection from the
dead. **12** Not that I have already
obtained all this, or have already
arrived at my goal, but I press on
to take hold of that for which
Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

“estimate the cost”

“Many Christians blend in with the world and avoid the cost of standing up for Christ. But Jesus says if Christians lose their distinctive saltiness, they become worthless...

Being “salty” is not easy, but if a Christian fails in this function, he or she fails to represent Christ in the world. How salty are we?”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

Applications

Count the cost:

- “hating one’s family:” putting Jesus above all other relationships
- Bearing the Cross and following Jesus
- Renouncing possessions
- None of them can be fulfilled without fulfilling the others

Final Thoughts

“Do not promise to follow Jesus unless you understand the “cost” and are willing to “pay” it. This does not imply that salvation must be earned. Rather the point being made is that God’s grace can only be received by those who, in repenting, place him above everything else.”

Robert Stein

Final Thoughts

“Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Final Thoughts

Matthew 7:21-23

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ **23** Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’