



Today's Message

Date: July 4, 2021
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Count the Cost*

Text: Luke 14:25–35 (ESV)

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Introduction: Years ago, an author astutely described the condition of the church in the 20th century. His evaluation still applies today:

In countries to which Christian civilization has spread, large numbers of people have covered themselves with a decent, but thin, veneer of Christianity. They have allowed

themselves to become somewhat involved; enough to be respectable but not enough to be uncomfortable.¹

This he called “nominal Christianity,” or “Christians in name only.” It results from preaching that truncates the gospel, emphasizing salvation without sanctification. But the gospel Jesus preached differs significantly. Though salvation is free to all who believe, the life that follows is costly.

Today’s take-home truth: Count the cost of following Jesus.

I. Requirements: Jesus calls you to follow him. 25-27

A. Love him more than anyone else. 25-26

B. Love him more than life itself. 27

II. Explanation: Jesus also challenges you to count the cost. 28-32

A. Consider the cost of following Jesus. 28-30

B. Consider the cost of not following Jesus. 31-32

III. Summary requirement: Jesus calls you to love him more than anything you have. 33

IV. Warning: Jesus warns that he will cast out those who profess faith but refuse to follow. 34-35

A. Those who follow Jesus are valuable to him. 34

B. Those who do not follow have no value for him. 35a

C. Those who are of no value will be cast out. 35b

Implications:

¹ John Stott, *Basic Christianity* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP), 108.