

Sermon Questions: Count the Cost

Luke 14:25-33

1. Pastor Mark contends that there is always a high price to be paid for truly valuable things. Recall something in your life that you value highly and are willing to pay a high price to protect.
2. Can you recall a time when you made a big commitment and then followed through with keeping that commitment? How did that impact your life?
3. Read Luke 14:25-33. What do you think Jesus means when he says we must “hate” our family and our very lives if we want to be his disciples (verse 26)?
4. What do you think Jesus means when he says we must “carry our cross and follow him (verse 27)?
5. Pastor Mark points out that Jesus often spoke in these strong terms about commitment whenever the crowds grew large. Why do you think Jesus would do this?
6. Jesus uses two analogies to make a point. One about a tower builder and the other about a King considering going to war. What would you say is the point of both stories?
7. What do you think it means to “give up everything” to be Jesus’ disciple (verse 33)?
8. Pastor Mark suggests Jesus isn’t being cruel, he’s being honest. In what way is Jesus being honest about commitment?
9. Pastor Mark describes someone who goes on a temporary “religious phase” for a few weeks or months, but then gives up. Do you know of anyone like this?

10. Pastor Mark describes someone who starts following Jesus, then gets to a certain level of commitment and stays there, getting stuck, not retreating but also not experiencing deeper levels of joy, contentment, patience, gratitude, generosity and love for God and others. Why do some people get “stuck” in their spiritual growth and commitment?
11. While this teaching of Jesus is difficult to hear, why do you think it is important for us to hear it?
12. Pastor Mark suggests that a strong commitment to obey and follow Jesus is not easy, but it is worth it. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?
13. What might you need to do in order to take your commitment to following Jesus to the “next level”?