

The Truth about Following Jesus
Matthew 4
Luke 14

Luke 14:25-33

Now great crowds were traveling with Him. So He turned and said to them: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters--yes, and even his own life--he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. "For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to make fun of him, saying, 'This man started to build and wasn't able to finish.' ... "In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not say good-bye to all his possessions cannot be My disciple.

I. Following Jesus requires Major Adjustments

Genesis 12:1-5

The LORD said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Abram was 75 years old when he left. He took his wife Sarai and all the possessions they had accumulated, and they set out for the land of Canaan.

Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God*

If you want to be a follower of Jesus, you have no choice. You will have to make major adjustments in your life to follow God. Until you are ready to make any adjustment necessary to follow and obey what God has said, you will be of little use to God.

II. Following Jesus demonstrates Authentic Faith

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Philippians 2:7

He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

III. Turning back always has a higher price

John 6

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

Charles Stanley, *Confronting Casual Christianity*

"Every day you live outside the authority of Jesus Christ failing to follow His good and perfect will, you are storing up regret and remorse which will bear agony and misery now and later."

IV. Following Jesus bring a life of rich reward

- God's Presence

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- God's Plan

Psalm 40:5

Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

- God's Power