

LUKE I The True Cost of Following Jesus Lk 9:57-62

Counting the True Cost—and Realizing the True Blessings —Bill Turner

1. When a friend entered the border patrol... which requires application forms, Bkg checks, competency tests, and then intensive training...
 - a. He said it was so difficult at first that a lot of guys quit—But Later the load lightened...
 - b. he found out they do this on purpose to weed out the wanna-be's from the dedicated
2. This Can happen in life when we only focus on the hardships over the blessings
3. Here we see Jesus is not seeking crowds—He is seeking dedicated disciples

I. KNOWING THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

A. HARDSHIP: What Are Your Motives? (v.57-58)

1. Some Have a **SINCERE** Faith—but it's **IMPULSIVE**—based on **EMOTION**
 - a) Sincere—but Spontaneous—and therefore Shallow and easily discouraged
 - b) Like the Seed that falls on rocky soil—it soon withers because it's roots are shallow
 - c) With the Miracles Jesus is preforming, some may have thought following Jesus was more glamorous than it truly was...
2. **Jesus is just being brutally honest—This is NOT a Health & Wealth Gospel!**
 - a) Jesus lived a simple life of faith Trusting the Father for every Need.
 - b) There was no hotel reservations or warm meals waiting for them
 - c) The Samaritans wouldn't even let them stay in their city
3. **Following Jesus Does NOT Appeal to HIGH-MAINTENANCE People!**
 - a) Following Jesus Does NOT Appeal to SELF-IMPORTANT People!
 - b) Following Jesus Involves Hardship, Rejection, Sorrow, Self-Denial
4. **When Jesus was Born...**
 - a) There wasn't even any room in the Inn for the King of Kings
 - b) His Home Town of Nazareth Rejected Him
 - c) The Communities of Galilee Rejected Him
 - d) The Citizens of the Decapolis Asked Him to Leave
 - e) The Samaritans asked Him to Leave
 - f) The Scribes and Pharisees Rejected Him
 - g) Jerusalem welcomed him at first then rejected Him at last
 - h) The Crowds left and followed him no more
 - i) The Disciples scattered and left Him
 - j) He came to His own and His own received Him NOT
 - k) Jesus had no where to lay His head
 - l) They Took the Only Thing He Owned (His Tunic) and cast lots for it
 - m) In the End He was Mocked as a Fake King and then Crucified between two thieves

5. HOW DO YOU HANDLE HARDSHIPS IN YOUR FAITH? (2 Timothy 3:12; 2:3)

How you handle Hardship for Christ Reveals Your Motives

If Your Motive is Comfort—Your Faith Won't Let Very Long

If Your Motive is Love—You'll Stay Faithful Even Under Hardship

6. Following Christ requires resolve because it involves rejection.

Jesus is saying: MAKE SURE YOU COUNT THE COST (Lk 9:23–24)

B. URGENCY: What Are Your Priorities? (v.59-60)

- 1. Jesus is not heartlessly forbidding him from attending his father's funeral**
 - a) If the father had just died — this son would not even be here talking to Jesus...
 - b) he would be mourning and making preparations for the funeral
- 2. More than likely this man's father has not yet died...**
 - a) In essence he is saying: I will follow you after I care for my father until he dies...
 - b) An Indefinite Period of Time—then he would have time to follow Jesus LATER.
- 3. One of the Hardest Decisions is NOT Between Right and Wrong—
—but between RIGHT and RIGHT!**
- 4. This seems like a Reasonable Request—but the implication of it is that
FAMILY COMES FIRST BEFORE GOD.**
- 5. Although Human Affections are important—God Must Be Top Priority...**
 - a) When We Seek God FIRST—Everything Else Will Fall into proper place
- 6. But Jesus says: “*Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go
and preach the kingdom of God.*” (9:60)**
 - a) MEANING: Let the Spiritually Dead bury the Physically Dead...
—But You Have Been Called to Life

C. COMMITMENT: Where Is Your Focus? (v.61-62)

- 1. Another would-be follower makes a commitment to Jesus with a condition**
 - a) *NIV: “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”*
- 2. Jesus knows the Heart—**
 - a) I believe He is addressing each of these would-be followers individually
 - b) knowing their heart and what half-hearted conditions they have
- 3. Peter unknowingly tried to prevent Jesus from going to the cross...
out of love for Jesus, Peter opposed Jesus...**

“There are times when fond love seeks to deflect us from the perils of the path of God; but the real love is not the love which holds people at home, but the love which sends them out to obey the commandments of moral courage and conviction which are given not to make life easy, but to make life great. It is quite possible for love to be so protecting that it seeks to protect those it loves from the adventure and the challenge of committed followers of Christ, and from the strenuousness of the pathway of the pilgrim of God.” (Barclay)

- 4. When We Give Our Life to God and Put Him First—We Actually Do More for
Our Family than We Ever Would Just By Ourselves!**
- 5. So Jesus says: Don't Look Back... (v.62)**
 - a) There would be a time to explain to family members later...
- 6. Plowmen are really good at 1) focusing—and 2) holding on...**
- 7. The Call of Commitment to Christ But Be Our First and Main Focus
“*The main thing, is to keep the main thing, the main thing!*”**
- 8. Have You Ever Tried Driving a Car going forward—While Only Looking
backward in the Rear-view mirror? (Philippians 3:13-14)**

D. **BASICALLY THESE ARE: 'COMMITMENTS WITH CONDITIONS'**

1. *I Will Follow You Lord*

—*IF I Can Stay Comfortable With NO hardship...*

—*IF All My Felt Needs Are Met...*

—*IF I Can on MY Terms—Not Yours...*

—*IF I Can Straighten My Life Out First...*

—*IF There's NO PROBLEMS in the church or in my life*

2. The Problem is that—Anything We Put Above God is Actually an Idol

• We're Not Called to BELIEVE in OURSELF—but to DENY Self!

• We're Not Called to Follow Our Heart—but to FOLLOW JESUS!

on HIS TERMS – NOT OURS!

1. Count the Cost of HARDSHIP 2. Put God First 3. Don't Look Back or Give Up!

Have the Faith that Overcomes the World (*Hebrews 11:33–40*)

II. KNOWING THE BLESSINGS OF FOLLOWING JESUS

The Cost of Following Christ is High—but the Rewards are much Higher!

A. **FORGIVENESS of our sins (Colossians 1:13–14)**

1. **IMPOSSIBLE**: You CAN'T Go Back and UND YOUR PAST...

2. **POSSIBLE**: You CAN Be FORGIVEN of Your Past

Jesus went to the Cross to Pay Your Debt in Full by His Blood!

a) We are no longer under condemnation of sin and death...

b) for there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ! (Rom 8:1)

3. Who Wouldn't Want Full Forgiveness of Every Sin You Ever Committed?

Who Wouldn't Want a Clear Consciousness? (*Psalm 103:11–14*)

Every Sin You Ever Committed—FORGIVEN as if it never happened!

B. **ADOPTION as children of God (Romans 8:15–17)**

1. God has adopted us into His Royal Family

a) Paul is writing to those who understood Roman Adoption Law...

Which Has 4 Key aspects of Adoption.

(1) The adopted person **lost all rights in his old family**—and **gained all the rights** of a legitimate son in his new family. In the most **binding legal way**, he got a new father.

(2) It followed that he became **heir to his new father's estate**. Even if other sons were born afterwards, it did not affect his rights. He was co-heir with them, and no one could deny him that right.

(3) In law, **the old life** of the adopted person **was completely wiped out**; **for instance, all debts were cancelled**. He was regarded as a new person entering into a new life in which the past had no part.

(4) In the eyes of the law, **he was absolutely the son of his new father**. (Barclay)

2. When We Are Born Again in Baptism—We Are Adopted into God’s Family
 - (1) **We have a NEW FATHER**—Who loves you with an everlasting love!
 - (2) **We Have a NEW IDENTITY**—in Christ as a Child of God
 - (3) **A NEW FAMILY**—God’s Family in which we are brothers / sisters
 - (4) **A NEW FUTURE**—that Changes Everything!
 - (5) **A NEW INHERITANCE**—that we didn’t deserve, give by God’s Grace

C. HOPE even in our suffering (**Romans 8:18; 24-25**)

1. Even in Suffering We Have a Hope that no one can take away from us
2. Because we know the suffering is temporary—but life w/ God is eternal!
3. (**2 Corinthians 4:7–9; 16-18**)

D. REST for our soul (**Matthew 11:28–30**)

1. *Which of you by working can add 1 hour to your life?*
2. We Can Rest from our Anxiety and Worry!
3. We Can Rest from Trying to Run from God!
4. We can Rest from always trying to Prove ourselves to others!

E. PEACE in an age of Anxiety (**Romans 5:1-2**)

1. We live in an age of anxiety—and people desperately want peace...
 - a) A Lot of People Promise Peace but they can’t Deliver it
 - b) because True Peace is not Found in the World—it is only found in God
2. Jesus Went to the Cross So We Could Have this with Peace with God
3. When We Have Peace with God—we finally have Peace within our self
4. When we have this peace—we can finally have Peace with others
5. There is no peace for those who are separated from God...

We Can Only Find Peace in Him (**Isaiah 26:3**)

F. ETERNAL LIFE (**Romans 6:23**)

1. We have been set free from the law of sin and death
2. We can now have life and peace and joy
3. **Titus 1:2** “**in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began**”
4. **WHEN WE COUNT THE COST:** Yes there will be hardship along the way—but there are also blessings along the way as well! (**Mark 10:29-30**)

“**He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, in order to gain what he cannot lose.**”
(Jim Elliot)

CONCL: (**Heb. 12:1–2**) **Jesus counted the cost and considered you worth it!**

1. Count the Cost of HARDSHIP 2. Put God First 3. Don’t Look Back or Give Up!