

# The Cost of Serving Jesus Christ

Prepared May 1, 2008 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

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Luke 14:28 *For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.*

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This is a familiar passage of scripture, and it has a lot of meaning for each one of God's children.

Before any of us take on a duty to build a tower, we must sit down, take time, and count the cost. There are given in these verses some reasons why we should do this.

## I. COUNTING THE COST

- A. Just what is the cost of doing the work for Jesus Christ, carrying out the commandments that Jesus Christ laid down for his churches in Matt. 28:18-20?
- B. Before we begin to do this work, we must first sit down and count the cost.
  1. Leave father and mother, vs. 26
    - a. It is hard to leave father and mother. The book of Genesis tells us that we must leave our father and mother in order to get married and join ourselves with a spouse.
    - b. Some young preachers do not want to leave father and mother, so they stay home and do not become serious about preparing for their ministry.
    - c. I am glad that I left my father and mother when I was 17 years old. I did not enjoy it at the time, but it was the best thing that ever happened to me. It helped me to count the cost of doing what I knew to do as an adult.
    - d. When the Lord called me to preach, I was already separated from mother and father, for which I am thankful.
  2. Bear the Cross of Christ, vs. 27
    - a. To bear a cross means to take our work for the Lord seriously, to commit ourselves to the duties that accompany our call.
    - b. To bear the cross means, not only to pick it up, but to continue to carry it without dropping it or continuing to walk toward the goal, the end of this earthly life.
    - c. Many today will begin to bear the cross, but they drop the cross, discontinue their duties as God's servants, and turn to the world for pleasure.
    - d. This Christian army cannot afford soldiers like that. We must count the cost, pay the cost, and never give up.
  3. Are we Able?, vs. 28, 31
    - a. We need to consider whether we are able to do the work the Lord has commanded us to do, despite the fact that there are thousands who are against us.
    - b. There is a trail of blood of believers which has been laid down throughout the centuries by those who love the Lord enough to stay with the stuff.
    - c. Eph 3:20 *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask*

*or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

- d. Do we have sufficient to finish the job that we have started? I say we do. Phil. 4:19  
*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
- 4. Forsake all we have, vs. 33
  - a. Worldliness and possessions have taken over our lives. We see people today working all week long just so they can go to the store and purchase clothing every week, video games, entertainments of all kinds.
  - b. If we are not willing to forsake these things for the cause of Jesus Christ, then we can be no benefit to the Kingdom of Christ.
  - c. People today make and spend money as fast as they can and wonder what happened to it, because they never have anything as a benefit for they spent their money for.
  - d. We seek to please the flesh rather than the spirit.
  - e. Letting these things go is one of the costs of serving Christ—not altogether, but in the main.

## II. **THE FLAVOR OF SALT**, vs. 34

- A. Our salt has lost its savor for the most part.
- B. Our salt must be re-salted. Where do we get the savor? We get it from the word of God.
- C. We get it through training, and that is where preparation to build comes from
- D. Let's pray that God will send men into the harvest and that he will prepare them through good schools and good churches to do God's will and fulfill his commandments.