

The Cost of Discipleship + Miscellaneous Questions

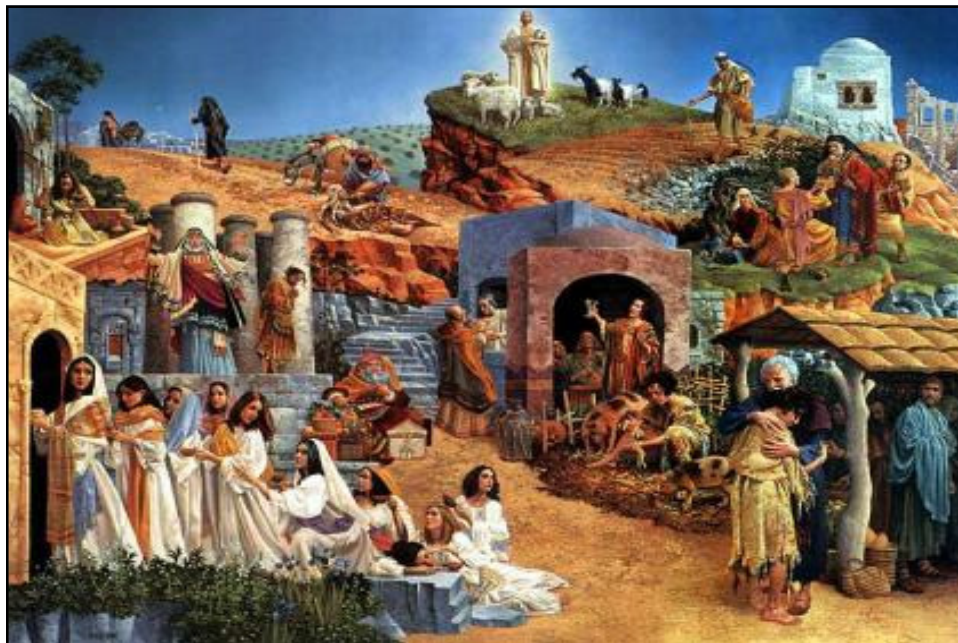


23 Oct, 2016

Andy Lewis

Courtesy of www.BibleStudyMen.com

Hard Questions of the Bible



A Closer Look

The Cost of Discipleship

Multiple Parables on same topic....

- Family vs God
- Building a Tower
- King Going to War
- Salt

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-35

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

The Cost of Discipleship

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

The Cost of Discipleship

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

The Cost of Discipleship

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

The Cost of Discipleship



- What does it mean when Jesus says to “hate” your parents, wife, children, siblings, and even your own life?
- Is Jesus saying to treat family members badly or with disrespect?

The Cost of Discipleship

Hate

- Shocking, jolting
- Provoking real listening
- Hating, detesting is not neutral
- Does not mean ignoring someone
- Does not imply disinterest
- Means to actively despise
- Jesus' use of the word is intended to shock and to challenge

The Cost of Discipleship

Hyperbole

- An overstatement in order to make a point with maximum impact
- Jesus states something in a striking, unforgettable way
- A way that challenges us and forces us to think

The Cost of Discipleship

Hate our closest family members?

- contrasting our allegiance to Jesus in the strongest possible way
- No earthly tie, however close, must take precedence over our allegiance to and obedience of Jesus
- He is Number One—by far!
- No person even comes close!

The Cost of Discipleship

What this does NOT mean....

- No excuse to treat family members shabbily or with disrespect
- Responsibilities for our family still remain

The Cost of Discipleship

Does mean that

Following Jesus is to take first priority—even if it is painful, difficult, and misunderstood

- Our parent's wishes
don't come first
- Our spouse's and children's desires
don't come first

The Cost of Discipleship

Does mean that

- Jesus' direction comes first
- Reference to... OT and NT

First Commandment – Ex 20:3

Have no other Gods

Greatest Commandment – Matt 22:37

Love God with all your heart,
soul and mind.

The Cost of Discipleship



What does it mean to carry your own cross?

Luke 14:27

²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

The Cost of Discipleship

Carrying your cross means that we must

- Accept the death of our own self-directed life
- Die to ourselves daily
- Be willing to face whatever physical, emotional, or social persecution that ensues
- Follow Jesus

The Cost of Discipleship



- With his audience (the crowd following him), why did Jesus use this illustration?

The Cost of Discipleship

- Jesus spoke of a cross to get the people in the crowd to think through their enthusiasm for him
- He encouraged those that were superficial either to go deeper or to turn back
- Not for 'Nominal' Christians – in name only – or those following for the entertainment

The Cost of Discipleship

Being a disciple demands full commitment;
nothing less will do.

In order to illustrate this point Jesus tells a
parable in two parts.

14:28-30 - Building a Tower

14:31-33 - King going to War

The Cost of Discipleship



- How do Jesus' conditions of following him
seem to you today?

The Cost of Discipleship



- Think about planning a major project....
 - How can you account for all of the costs?
 - What happens if you overlook something?
 - What if the project is not completed?
 - What will your family, and friends say?
 - Do you have any uncompleted projects around?

The Cost of Discipleship



What consequences result from not counting the costs before building?

- Luke 14:28-29
 - ²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you.

The Cost of Discipleship



How does this building illustration apply to discipleship (i.e., following Jesus)?

The Cost of Discipleship

Discipleship demands the utmost seriousness and commitment.

Be very, very aware of what happens when you follow Jesus as his disciple.

Truth in Advertising

The Cost of Discipleship



Is there a difference between....
Following and Being a Disciple
And
Being 'Saved'?

Who makes which choice?

The Cost of Discipleship

Context....

Who is Jesus Talking to... **Saved** or Unsaved?

- The parable is applied to anyone who "comes to" Jesus (v. 26), which denotes those who believe in Him
- Only through the Holy Spirit
can we search for God

The Cost of Discipleship

**God offers salvation to people as sinners
apart from their love and loyalty to Christ**

Rom 5:6-8

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Cost of Discipleship

Justification

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

The Cost of Discipleship

Sanctification

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

The Cost of Discipleship

Working out our Salvation -

– Greek verb rendered “work out” means
"to continually work to bring something to
completion or fruition."

We do this by actively pursuing obedience in the
process of sanctification

Eyes wide open

Worth the cost

Being the Disciple

The Cost of Discipleship

Discipleship demands the utmost
seriousness and commitment

Such a devoted love for God
over blood relationships
would be an extraordinary demand
for sinners who have had no
experience of Christ's
redeeming love

The Cost of Discipleship

- This is a choice we make to continue improving our relationship with Jesus
- A choice to continue our Sanctification

The Cost of Discipleship



Bib Christians



Apron Christians

The Cost of Discipleship

If a king didn't have sufficient manpower to go to war, what was his best course of action?

Luke 14:31-32

³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

The Cost of Discipleship



How do you interpret this second illustration (King preparing for battle) with respect to following Jesus?

The Cost of Discipleship

Consider ahead of time whether or not you are willing to become his follower. It will take everything you have and more.

- Discipleship will figure in every future decision of your life.
- The will of God will be first in your priority from now on.

The Cost of Discipleship

- Figure out your resources and what you are willing to commit ahead of time.
- If you don't have it, don't commit your forces. Without enough strength they'll be chewed up, destroyed.
- Halfway measures are not adequate.
- Christ asks for all or nothing.

The Cost of Discipleship

Don't move toward a battle in a way you will surely lose.

Should we then give up?

Don't rely on your own strength

Christ gives resources needed

The Cost of Discipleship



- Jesus presented the costs of discipleship in different ways at different times.

Luke 5:11

Luke 5:27-28

Mark 10:21-22

The Cost of Discipleship

- **Luke 5:11** - And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. (NLT)
- **Luke 5:27-28** - After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

The Cost of Discipleship

- **Mark 10:21-22 - 21**

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

The Cost of Discipleship



- Jesus presented the costs of discipleship in different ways at different times.

Luke 5:11

Luke 5:27-28

Mark 10:21-22

- How did people respond?

The Cost of Discipleship

- Personalized.....

For which of you desiring to build a Ministry in Newport News, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This congregation began to build and was not able to finish.'

The Cost of Discipleship

Or what Congregation, about to go to war, in a great spiritual battle, will not sit down first and deliberate how many it will take to make an army to battle the old evil foe in this place. It would be foolish then to not count the cost before embarking on God's mission in Newport News, VA.

The Cost of Discipleship

So to all of the saints gathered here at Resurrection this morning, I ask you today, “So you want to be a disciple?” Well then let us first count the cost to see if we can finish the job.

The Cost of Discipleship



- What costs do we need to count in responding to Jesus?
- What costs of following Jesus seem especially high to you?
- What holds you back?

The Cost of Discipleship



- What does Jesus short illustration about salt mean?
- Luke 14:34-35

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

The Cost of Discipleship

In Jesus day, salt was an essential of life.

It was used for both flavoring and preservation.



The Cost of Discipleship

Salt was obtained from evaporation from the Dead Sea, but it was far from pure. It was often mixed with greater or lesser concentrations of other minerals.



The Cost of Discipleship

It is possible for all the sodium chloride to be leached out of a mixture of salts so all that is left is stale and useless

It is possible for what appears to be salt to have all its true salt washed out of it

Even though the appearance remains, the essence is lost

The Cost of Discipleship



If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

The Cost of Discipleship

If we have so conformed our ways and words to the world around us that others can't see Christ in us

—that they are surprised to find out that we are Christians—

then maybe we aren't very salty at all

The Cost of Discipleship

In summary

Jesus looks at the large crowd traveling with him today, and says:

- * Your allegiance to me must be complete; every other allegiance must pale before it.
- * You must be constantly ready to die for me, if necessary, as you follow me.

The Cost of Discipleship

- * You must count the cost before you start to determine what it takes to follow me.
- * You must give up everything you have to follow me.
- * You must retain the distinctive flavor of uncompromised disciples.

The Cost of Discipleship

Single Word Summary

COMMIT

Athanasian Creed and Works

Athanasian Creed and Works

“At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies, and shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting, and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.”

Athanasian Creed and Works

Primary Purpose of Creed –

Explain the Trinity

Not Salvation in depth

Athanasian Creed and Works

Matthew 25 The Sheep and the Goats

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and **he will separate the people one from another** as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'

Athanasian Creed and Works

³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Athanasian Creed and Works

³⁷"Then **the righteous will answer him**, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did** for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Athanasian Creed and Works

⁴¹"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

Athanasian Creed and Works

⁴⁴"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, **whatever you did not do** for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

- ⁴⁶"**Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.**"

Athanasian Creed and Works

- What makes our works acceptable to God?

Athanasian Creed and Works

Hebrews 11 - By Faith

¹Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Athanasian Creed and Works

⁴By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did.

By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings.

And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

.

Athanasian Creed and Works

⁵By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. **⁶And *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.

Athanasian Creed and Works

John 15 ⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**

Athanasian Creed and Works

Ephesians 2

⁸For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**⁹**not by works,** so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Athanasian Creed and Works

• 2 Corinthians 5

¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

Athanasian Creed and Works

- **2 Corinthians 5**

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us **the ministry of reconciliation:**¹⁹**that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.** And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

Athanasian Creed and Works

- **2 Corinthians 5**

²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

Athanasian Creed and Works

- Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead. At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire

Athanasian Creed and Works

And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting, and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.

True Statement but....

- Judged by our works ---- all should be condemned
- Saved by God's Grace --- through Faith

