

Counting the Cost



We have looked at many of Jesus' parables. Each one teaches us something about God and about how to live as a follower of Jesus. We will end with this very short parable.



Read Luke 14 v 28-30.

- 1) What is this parable all about?
- 2) What does Jesus say is so important to do before beginning to build? (v 28)
- 3) What might happen if the builder did not do that? (v 29-30)



So what is Jesus teaching us through this parable. It's not just sensible advice about thinking through a project before you begin. It's about knowing what it means to be a Christian. Jesus is warning us to be fully prepared for the cost.

- 4) What did it cost the Saviour to make it possible for people like you and me to be put right with God?

Any follower of Christ will experience some sort of 'cost'. **Read Luke 14 v 27.**

- 5) What does Jesus say about a person who is not prepared to bear this cost?
- 6) Can you think of ways Christians throughout the world suffer for being a Christian?

You may have lots of questions about this. Why is being a Christian so hard sometimes? Why are people willing to suffer like this? Think about the eternal gains.

Read 2 Corinthians 4 v 16-18.

- 7) How long is hardship for being a Christian going to last? (v 17a)
- 8) What has a Christian to look forward to? (v 17b-18)

Being saved by Jesus is the most wonderful thing that can happen to any person. It means they are safe for ever and ever, forgiven for all their sins and put right with God. It means an eternity of peace and blessing, living with the Lord Who saved them. A little discomfort here on earth is worth it!

- 9) What will happen to anyone who is **not** a Christian when they die?

If you have not yet been saved, ask the Lord to work in your heart now. Ask Him, too, to make you willing to expect and put up with any difficulties that may come, knowing that God Himself will help you through. Keep in mind the wonderful reward. Be like the Lord Jesus Himself:

“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” Hebrews 12 v 2.

