

Discipleship - Lesson #13
"The Cost of Discipleship"

Memory Verse Hand Out Scriptures to read

2 Corinthians 1:7 (NKJV) *And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.*

Christianity has a cost something, but it pays more than it costs.

Let Go And Let God

Word Of Faith and Prosperity ministries. Jesus is a Genie.

Consider Paul

2 Corinthians 11:23–27 (NKJV) *Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—*

Peter

John 21:18–19 (NKJV) *Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.* ¹⁹ *This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."*

Hebrews 11:35–38 *Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*

***Acts 14:22 (KJV)** *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

Calculating Cost: First Priority

Luke 12:49–53 (NKJV) *"I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. ⁵³ Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."*

Luke 14:25–26 (NKJV) *Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."*

Deuteronomy 21:15 (KJV) *If a man have two wives, one beloved, and another hated, and they have born him children, both the beloved and the hated; and if the firstborn son be hers that was hated: - disliked*

Matthew 10:37–39 (NKJV) *"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.*

Bearing Our Cross

***Luke 14:27 (NKJV)** *And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*

Mark 10:21 (NKJV) *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."*

Matthew 19:23 *Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again he cautioned them;*

***Luke 12:15** *"Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

Matthew 16:26 *For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?*

Matthew 13:44-46 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

Pots of Gold - Treasure

After filling their nets to bursting, the most prosperous catch of their lives, is same the moment when Jesus asked Peter Andrew, James and John to leave it all and follow him. And they did!

Luke 5:11 *So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.*

Luke 18:28 *Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. Is the lord asking all of us to liquidate all our assets and follow Him? Not necessarily, but He is asking us to put everything on the alter and then be willing to do whatever He directs.*

***Matthew 16:21 (NKJV)** *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.*

Hate from the World

John 15:18–20 *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”*

John 16:1–2 (NKJV) *“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.”*

Luke 21:12–19 (NKJV) *“But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. ¹³ But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. ¹⁴ Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; ¹⁵ for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head shall be lost. ¹⁹ By your patience possess your souls.”*

All On The Altar

Romans 12:1, 2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Disciplined Response

Luke 14:31–33 (NKJV) *Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.*

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 (NKJV) *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV) *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² 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.*

Comparing Costs

Matthew 18:8–9 (NKJV) *“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”*

***Luke 6:35 (NKJV)** *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.*

***Philippians 2:3** (NKJV) *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.* **Power-strip Illustration**

Luke 18:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.” ²⁹ So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

John 14:1–3 (NKJV) “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

A Better Resurrection

Hebrews 11:35–38 (NKJV) ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

Mat 16:25 *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*

Seeing Mary at Jesus feet in sacrifice and service was in many respects, her finest hour. This is evident by the fact that Jesus would immortalize the deed by declaring; *“Wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”* Why? Because Mary gave her all!

It may sound radical or even scary, but if you would be saved it will require your all. A total surrender, a total sacrifice. This is the same reason Jesus commended the widow that cast her last two coins into the offering box because she gave her all.

Luke 21:2-4 *And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.*

Many never experience the fullness of God’s peace and power because they only make a partial surrender. The lord can only fill our vessels to the same extent that we empty them.

Matthew 13:44-46 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Luke 14:33 “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”

Mat 19:21, 22 *Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

Acts 4:34, 35 *Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.*

“Many are inquiring, “How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?” You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair. What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.” SC -47

Sincerely

"sincere" can be traced back to the Latin words "sine" (without) and "cera" (wax). Unscrupulous Roman stoneworkers, the story goes, would sometimes cut corners by applying a thick coating of shiny wax to marble rather than taking the time to polish it properly. So widespread was this shabby practice, it is said, that honest stoneworkers had to advertise their wares as being "sine cera," without wax, to reassure their customers. "Sincere," the story goes, eventually came to be used more generally to mean "honest" and "straightforward."

Other authorities trace "sincere" back to the Latin word -- "sincerus," meaning "whole" or "pure." Probably based on the roots "sin" (one) and "crescere" (to grow), "sincerus" originally referred to a plant which was of pure stock -- not a mixture or hybrid -- and later came to mean anything which was genuine and not adulterated.

Finding Pots Of Gold - In February 2013 a Northern California couple out walking their dog on their country property east of Sacramento stumbled across a modern-day pot of Gold. Actually they found several pots of gold buried in the shadow of an old tree! The couple, who have chosen to remain anonymous, found 8 tin cans containing 1,427 gold coins, dating from between 1847 to 1894, virtually all in mint condition. Although the face value of the gold pieces only adds up to about \$27,000, some of them are so rare and well preserved that coin experts say they could fetch nearly \$1 million apiece.

It is believed whoever owned the property 150 years ago buried the coins as a kind of primitive safety deposit box then probably died taking the secret with them. The coins were then forgotten for over a century. The middle aged couple discovered the coins on their property along a trail they have walked for years. They are choosing to remain anonymous, in part to avoid a renewed gold rush with modern day prospectors armed with metal detectors leaving craters all over their land. This once in a lifetime hoard that could easily fetch 10 million dollars, is believed to be the most valuable buried treasure ever found in the United States. Did you know the bible also tells about a man who found buried treasure in a field? Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”*

Monkey trappers in North Africa have a clever method of catching their prey. A number of gourds are filled with nuts and firmly chained to a tree. Each has a hole just large enough for the unsuspecting monkey to stick his hand into it. When the hungry animal discovers this and the treasure of nuts, he quickly grabs a handful of nuts, but now the hole is too small for him to withdraw his bulging, clenched fist. And he doesn't have enough sense to open up his hand and release the deceptive booty in order to escape, so he is easily taken captive.