



10 simple steps in making Wise Decisions (I'm encouraged because of my Choices)

Pastor Daren L. Barron | April 2, 2023

Count the Cost

Proverbs 20:25 Living Bible

It is foolish and rash to make a promise to the Lord before counting the cost.

Proverbs 20:25 Contemporary English Version

Don't fall into the trap of making promises to God before you think!

- Take a calculated risk. Every risk has a cost. You should know what that cost is ahead of time. Asking these three questions will help you come to grips with what it is.
 - Is it necessary? Can you reach your goal any other way?
 - What will it cost? Your risk will cost you something in money, time, reputation, and so on. Identify what that cost is.
 - Is it worth it? Will the potential profit outweigh that cost?...benefit - cost ratio

Luke 14:27-33 Contemporary English Version

27 You cannot be my disciple unless you carry your own cross and follow me. 28 Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. What is the first thing you will do? Won't you sit down and figure out how much it will cost and if you have enough money to pay for it? 29 Otherwise, you will start building the tower, but not be able to finish. Then everyone who sees what is happening will laugh at you. 30 They will say, "You started building, but could not finish the job." 31 What will a king do if he has only 10,000 soldiers to defend himself against a king who is about to attack him with 20,000 soldiers? Before he goes out to battle, won't he first sit down and decide if he can win? 32 If he thinks he won't be able to defend himself, he will send messengers and ask for peace while the other king is still a long way off. 33 So then, you cannot be my disciple unless you give away everything you own.

Luke 14:27-33 English Standard Version

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For **which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost**, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 **So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:27-33 Amplified Bible

27 **Whoever does not carry his own cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow after Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] cannot be My disciple.** 28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a watchtower [for his guards], does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to finish it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is unable to finish [the building], all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish!' 31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one who is coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else [if he feels he is not powerful enough], while the other [king] is still a far distance away, he sends an envoy and asks for terms of peace. 33 **So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not [carefully consider the cost and then for My sake] give up all his own possessions.**

The cost was too High!

Matthew 19:16-22 Amplified Bible

16 And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what [essentially] good thing shall I do to obtain eternal life [that is, eternal salvation in the Messiah's kingdom]?" 17 Jesus answered, "Why are you asking Me about what is [essentially] good? There is only One who is [essentially] good; but if you wish to enter into eternal life, keep the commandments." 18 He said to Jesus, "Which commandments?" And Jesus answered, "You shall not commit murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not give false testimony; 19 Honor your father and mother; and love your neighbor as yourself" [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for others]. 20 The young man said to Him, "I have kept all these things [from my youth]; what do I still lack?" 21 Jesus answered him, "If you wish to be perfect [that is, have the spiritual maturity that accompanies godly character with no moral or ethical deficiencies], go and sell what you have and give [the money] to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me [becoming My disciple, believing and trusting in Me and walking the same path of life that I walk]." 22 **But when the young man heard this, he left grieving and distressed, for he owned much property and had many possessions [which he treasured more than his relationship with God].**

Count the Cost: You never lose with God!

Romans 8:30-32 Amplified Bible

30 And those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified [declared free of the guilt of sin]; and those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity]. 31 What then shall we say to all these things? If God is for us, who can be [successful] against us? 32 **He who did not spare [even] His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?**

Mark 10:25-30 New International Version

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." 26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" 27 Jesus looked at them and said, "**With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.**" 28 Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" 29 "Truly I tell you,"

Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.