



Simple Steps in Making Wise Decisions: Count the Cost

Pastor Daren L. Barron | April 16, 2023

Count the Cost

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.**

Count the Cost

Proverbs 3:5-6 Amplified Bible

5 Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart And do not rely on your own insight or understanding. 6 In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, And He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].

- The idea of giving everything or giving up everything can be quite challenging, especially when there are Soul (emotional) attachments involved. Before giving up everything, trust for God is paramount; you can't trust God if you don't use The Faith He gave you. In addition, you can't trust God if you don't seek to understand God.

Count the Cost: EVERYTHING!

Proverbs 4:7-9 New International Version

7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. **Though it cost all you have, get understanding.** 8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. 9 She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown."

Count the Cost: Homework

- Why do we engage in: Bible Study, growth group, life group, bridge events?

Proverbs 4:7-9 Amplified Bible

7 "The beginning of wisdom is: Get [skillful and godly] wisdom [it is preeminent]! And with all your acquiring, get understanding [**actively seek spiritual discernment, mature comprehension, and logical interpretation**]. 8 "Prize wisdom [and exalt her], and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her. 9 "She will place on your head a garland of grace; She will present you with a crown of beauty and glory."