

DISCIPLESHIP OF CHRIST

Lesson #4 -Have You Counted the Cost?

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:57-62

Introduction:

1. E.g. -Reading the fine print on an agreement.
2. We must serve Jesus above all other priorities in life
3. We therefore serve Jesus above...

I. PERSON COMFORT

A. THE SCRIBE WOULD FOLLOW WHEREEVER JESUS WENT

1. We ascertain he was a scribe from Matthew 8:19
2. It may have been refreshing to see a scribe desiring to follow Jesus
3. Perhaps he saw the miracles and heard the teachings of Jesus and wanted to be a part of it.

B. THE REALITY

1. "Foxes have holes / birds have nest"
2. Following Jesus would afford no place of comfort to rest
3. Another meaning to consider -Foxes and birds have a place to hide from predators, not Jesus

C. APPLICATION

1. We must be willing to take up our cross and follow Jesus
2. Those during the day would have seen men carry their cross on a one-way trip to a painful end.
3. The Christian life is not easy -Jn 16:33; 1Ti 3:12
4. One has to carry the cross before he can wear a crown.

II. FAMILY OBLIGATIONS

A. NOTHING WRONG WITH TENDING TO FAMILY

1. Jesus taught the importance of honoring family -Mt 15:4-6
2. This principle is taught in other passages also -Ex 20:12, Ep 6:1-3

B. THIS MAN WAS USING THIS AS AN EXCUSE

1. Burial usually took place on the same day -Ac 5:6, 10
2. The ceremony however, would last a week or more
3. Christ must always take priority
4. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy -Mt 10:37

III. DISTRACTIONS OF THE PAST

A. FAREWELL TO FAMILY CEREMONIES

1. Could last days, weeks, and even months
2. Hindu families
 - a. They would persuade their children to come home for one last visit before conversion.
 - b. Very few of the children would return for baptism into Christ.

B. HAND TO THE PLOW

1. One must look forward as they plow if the line is to be straight
2. One must look forward constantly to Christ if one is to live successful before Him.

C. NOT FIT FOR THE KINGDOM

1. Jesus discussed building His church earlier -Mt 16:18, 19
2. Some would not be fit for the kingdom, church, and ultimately heaven.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus taught the kingdom was priceless -Mt 13:44-46
2. We have to ask ourselves, "What is it worth to us?"