



Counting the Cost: Lessons from the Gospels



Explore the Gospels' call to discipleship,
understanding the cost of following Jesus and
committing to faith with a clear, courageous heart.



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Introduction

The Gospels present Jesus not only as the Savior but also as the King inviting us into a meaningful, sometimes challenging journey of faith. In **Luke 14:31–33**, Jesus teaches us about the importance of *counting the cost* before committing to follow Him. This passage uses the vivid metaphor of a king preparing to go to war, emphasizing the need for deliberate and thoughtful commitment.

Following Christ is not a casual or easy path; it requires wisdom, sacrifice, and a full-hearted surrender. The Gospels invite us to reflect deeply on what it means to be a disciple — to prioritize Jesus above all else and to persevere through trials with unwavering trust. This study will guide you through understanding the cost of discipleship and encourage you to prepare your heart and mind for a faithful journey *with* Jesus.

Over the next three days, we'll explore key Gospel passages that highlight the challenges, rewards, and profound transformation that come from saying “yes” to Jesus's call. May this time deepen your faith and equip you to follow Him courageously, knowing the great prize that awaits.





Day 1: The King Plans Carefully



Day 1:  The King Plans Carefully

Your Verse

Luke 14:31 – “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 21:5 – “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”*
- *Luke 14:28 – “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”*



Day 1:  The King Plans Carefully

Devotional: Wise Preparation Reflects True Commitment

Jesus' teaching in Luke 14:31 vividly illustrates the importance of understanding what we are stepping into when we decide to follow Him. Like a king preparing for war, we must thoughtfully consider the challenges ahead. The journey of faith is not something to enter lightly or carelessly; it demands intentional planning and a realistic awareness of what true discipleship requires.

When Jesus speaks about the king counting his troops against the enemy's overwhelming force, He is encouraging us to face the reality that choosing to follow Him will sometimes mean standing against powerful obstacles and opposition. Our strength and resources may seem insufficient, but the key is honest assessment and reliance on God's power.

Proverbs 21:5

As you reflect today, consider how thoroughly you have prepared your heart to follow Jesus. Are you aware of the challenges? Are you leaning on God for strength?



Day 1:  The King Plans Carefully

Reflect and Apply

1. What are some 'costs' I might face by committing fully to following Jesus?

2. How does realistic planning help me in my spiritual journey?

3. In what ways can I rely on God's strength rather than my own when challenges arise?



Day 1:  The King Plans Carefully

Journaling Prompts

1. List some challenges you expect in your faith journey.

2. Write about a time you had to plan carefully before making a big decision.

3. Reflect on what relying on God's strength means for you personally.



Day 1: 🛡️ The King Plans Carefully

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for teaching me the importance of wise preparation. Help me to count the cost with honesty and courage, leaning fully on Your strength. Guide me to make decisions that honor You and prepare my heart for the journey ahead. May I trust You through challenges, knowing You are my mighty King and protector. Equip me to follow faithfully and with boldness every day. *Amen.* 🙏 🛡️ 📖 ✝️





Day 2: ✂ Understanding the Cost of Discipleship



Your Verse

Luke 14:33 - "In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 10:37 - "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."*
- *Philippians 3:8 - "What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*



Devotional: Surrendering All to Follow Christ

Jesus makes it clear in **Luke 14:33** that discipleship calls for a radical surrender — giving up everything that competes with our devotion to Him. This isn't always about physical possessions; often, it's about priorities, relationships, ambitions, and the self-centered desires that keep us from fully following Jesus.

Matthew 10:37

Paul's words in Philippians 3:8

Today, reflect on what 'everything' means in your life. Are there things, habits, or attachments you need to release so that you can more fully follow Jesus? Surrender is not a one-time event; it is a daily choice to place Him first regardless of the cost.



Reflect and Apply

1. What are some 'things' or priorities I struggle to surrender to Christ?

2. How does placing Jesus above all relationships affect my daily life?

3. In what ways can I pursue knowing Christ as my greatest treasure?



Journaling Prompts

1. Identify one area where surrender to Jesus is difficult for you.

2. Write a prayer asking God to help you put Him first in every part of your life.

3. List blessings you have received by prioritizing Christ above other things.



Day 2: 📖 Understanding the Cost of Discipleship

Prayer for Today


Father, help me to surrender all that hinders my full devotion to You. Teach me to love You above everything else, trusting that Your plans are perfect. Give me strength to let go of personal ambitions and attachments that distract me from following Jesus wholeheartedly. May I find my true treasure in knowing You more each day. *Amen.* 🙏 ❤️ ✚ 🔥





Day 3: 🚶 The Journey of Faith Ahead



Day 3:  The Journey of Faith Ahead

Your Verse

Luke 14:32 - “If he is not able, he sends a delegation while the other is still a long way off and asks for terms of peace.”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 12:1 - “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”*
- *2 Timothy 4:7 - “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*



Devotional: Persevering in Faith with Courage

Jesus' illustration continues in **Luke 14:32**, describing how a king who cannot win a war seeks peace. Similarly, our journey with Christ requires honest evaluation and perseverance.

Faith is a race that demands endurance, courage, and continual commitment.
Hebrews 12:1

Paul's testimony in **2 Timothy 4:7** is a powerful example of staying faithful through trials and challenges. He fought the good fight and finished well because he understood the cost and remained committed.

Today, the journey may seem long and tough, but God invites you to keep moving forward. Remember that preparation, surrender, and perseverance are all parts of the path. Trust Him to guide you, strengthen you, and bring you victory as you follow Him with determination.



Reflect and Apply

1. How do I respond when my faith journey feels difficult or uncertain?

2. What encouragement can I draw from Hebrews 12:1 and 2 Timothy 4:7 for my spiritual race?

3. How can I stay focused on Jesus daily amidst distractions and challenges?



Day 3:  The Journey of Faith Ahead

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe a time you persevered in your faith despite difficulties.

2. Write about what it means to you to 'finish the race' with faith intact.

3. List practical ways to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus each day.



Day 3: 🧑 The Journey of Faith Ahead

Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You for walking with me through every step of this journey. When I feel weary or discouraged, remind me to fix my eyes on Jesus and run with perseverance. Strengthen my faith, renew my courage, and help me to keep the faith until the very end. I trust Your peace and victory in my life as I follow You faithfully. *Amen.* 🙏🏃🏆💪





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