



Counting the Cost of Discipleship



Explore Jesus' teaching on the cost of building a tower as a metaphor for discipleship commitment and learn to count the cost before following Him.

Table of contents

<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>Day 1: 🏰 Planning the Tower: Counting the Cost</u>	4
<u>Day 2: ⚖️ Weighing Discipleship Against Life's Commitments</u>	10
<u>Day 3: 🚶 Following Jesus Daily: The Journey Forward</u>	16



Introduction

Understanding the cost of following Jesus is a vital step in our spiritual journey. In Luke 14:28–30, Jesus uses the example of building a tower to emphasize the importance of counting the cost before committing to discipleship. This teaching challenges us to consider what it truly means to be His follower—not just in word, but through intentional, sacrificial commitment.

Discipleship is often portrayed as a path filled with blessings, hope, and transformation—and indeed it is—but it also requires surrender, perseverance, and at times, hardship. Jesus calls us not to make rash decisions but to weigh carefully what it means to take up our cross and follow Him.

Over the next three days, we will thoughtfully examine key Gospel passages that deepen our understanding of Jesus’ invitation to discipleship, helping us to reflect on the cost and the great rewards of a life fully devoted to Him. Whether you are new in faith or seeking renewed commitment, this study will aid you in discerning the call to follow Christ wholeheartedly.





Day 1: 🏗️ Planning the Tower: Counting the Cost



Your Verse

Luke 14:28-30 - '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?'

Supporting Scriptures

- *Luke 9:23 - 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'*
- *Matthew 16:24 - 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'*



Day 1: 🏰 Planning the Tower: Counting the Cost

Devotional: Reflecting on the Cost Before Commitment

Jesus begins by illustrating the importance of careful planning through the example of building a tower. Before construction begins, the builder thoughtfully considers if there are enough resources to finish the project. In the same way, Jesus calls us to reflect seriously on what it means to be His disciple.

This passage reminds us that discipleship demands investment—of time, priorities, comfort, and sometimes reputation. It's not a casual endeavor but a commitment requiring wisdom and resolve. To follow Jesus means to count the cost, understanding that the journey can involve sacrifice and challenges.

Have you considered what it really costs to follow Jesus today? Are there areas in your life where wholehearted obedience to Him might require sacrifice? Taking this time to honestly evaluate our commitment helps us build a strong spiritual foundation and avoid turning back in discouragement.

Today, let's begin by praying for God's grace to help us reckon with what it means to follow Him fully and courageously.



Day 1: 🏰 Planning the Tower: Counting the Cost

Reflect and Apply

1. What does 'counting the cost' mean in your current walk with Christ?

2. Are there specific sacrifices you feel He is asking you to make?

3. How can you prepare yourself spiritually to follow Jesus with full commitment?



Day 1: 🏰 Planning the Tower: Counting the Cost

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you faced a difficult decision in your faith journey—how did you count the cost then?

2. List areas in your life where you sense God is calling for deeper commitment.

3. Describe what denying yourself and taking up your cross looks like in your daily life.



Day 1: 🏰 Planning the Tower: Counting the Cost

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for teaching us the value of wise planning in discipleship. Help me to honestly evaluate what it means to follow You and give me courage to embrace the cost without fear. Strengthen my heart so I may persevere and remain faithful to Your call. Teach me to depend on Your grace when the journey feels difficult. I trust that Your promises are worth every sacrifice. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏 🏰 🕊





Day 2: 🏛️ Weighing Discipleship Against Life's Commitments



Day 2: 📖 Weighing Discipleship Against Life's Commitments

Your Verse

Luke 14:31-33 – 'Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king... In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *Philippians 3:7-8 – 'Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.'*
- *Matthew 10:37-39 – 'Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.'*



Devotional: Evaluating What We Must Surrender


Jesus extends the tower-building analogy by comparing the situation to a king preparing for war. The king assesses whether his army can win before engaging battle. This vivid illustration teaches us the necessity of considering what we must give up to truly follow Jesus.

Jesus is clear—discipleship requires surrendering everything that competes with allegiance to Him. This includes possessions, relationships, ambitions, and even self-will. *Such surrender may feel costly, but the alternative is incomplete discipleship.*

Paul's example in Philippians shows the radical reordering of values that Christ demands. Worldly gains become losses compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus. What are you willing to surrender to honor Him as Lord?

Evaluating the cost helps reveal idols in our lives and calls us into freedom found only in total allegiance to Christ.



Day 2:  Weighing Discipleship Against Life's Commitments

Reflect and Apply

1. What personal 'kingdoms' or priorities might conflict with your devotion to Jesus?

2. Are there things or relationships you struggle to surrender fully to Him?

3. How does recognizing the cost of discipleship deepen your trust in God's provision?



Day 2:  Weighing Discipleship Against Life's Commitments

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a challenge you face in surrendering something to God.

2. Reflect on Paul's attitude toward personal loss—how can you apply that in your life?

3. List what true surrender might look like in your relationships and ambitions.



Day 2: 📖 Weighing Discipleship Against Life's Commitments

Prayer for Today

Father God, I come before You acknowledging that following Jesus requires surrender. Help me identify what I hold onto more tightly than You and grant me grace to release it. Teach me to put You above all else, trusting that Your plans for me are good. You are worthy of my whole heart and life. May I choose daily to live in freedom through total devotion to Christ. *In Jesus' powerful name, Amen.* 🕊️ ❤️ 🙏





Day 3: 🚶 Following Jesus Daily: The Journey Forward



Day 3:  Following Jesus Daily: The Journey Forward

Your Verse

Luke 14:27 - 'Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.'

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 15:5 - 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.'*
- *Hebrews 12:1-2 - 'Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.'*



Day 3:  Following Jesus Daily: The Journey Forward

Devotional: Embracing the Ongoing Cost of Discipleship

Discipleship is not a one-time decision but a daily commitment to carry our cross and follow Jesus. The cost we counted when deciding to follow Him is continually renewed with each step we take.

Carrying the cross symbolizes willingly accepting hardship, surrender, and sometimes suffering for the sake of Christ. Yet in this journey, we are not alone. Jesus Himself walks with us, providing strength and purpose.

Remaining connected to Him, as the branches to the vine, is essential to bearing lasting spiritual fruit. Daily dependence, perseverance, and fixing our eyes on Jesus equip us to endure challenges and grow in faith.

As you reflect on the cost of building your spiritual tower, be encouraged to take one step at a time, trusting God's grace every day. The journey may be hard, but the reward is eternal.



Reflect and Apply

1. What does 'carrying your cross' look like in your daily life right now?

2. How can you stay connected to Jesus to endure the challenges of discipleship?

3. In what ways do you see the fruit of your commitment to follow Christ?



Day 3:  Following Jesus Daily: The Journey Forward

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe a moment when you felt strengthened by Jesus during a difficult time.

2. List practical ways you can 'fix your eyes on Jesus' daily.

3. Reflect on how your journey of faith has changed since you began following Christ.



Day 3: 🧑 Following Jesus Daily: The Journey Forward

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for walking this journey with me. Help me to carry my cross daily with joy and perseverance. Keep my heart connected to You as the true vine so that I may bear fruit that glorifies You. Strengthen me when the road is hard and remind me of the eternal hope I have in You. May my life be a testimony of faithful discipleship. *In Your loving name, Amen.* 🏛️ 🌿 💪





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