

## “The Cost of Discipleship” (lesson #2)

Mark 10:17-22, 23-31; Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-33

1. Read II Sam 24:18-25 – Serving God and being a disciple of Jesus must cost us something. What did being a disciple of Jehovah cost David?

**Discuss** the context (24:1-17; 1 Chron 21:1; 27:24).

**The** key verse is (24:24).

**What** does discipleship cost us?

2. Name the good qualities of the rich young ruler.

- 1) **He** was seeking eternal life – but his search was not first in priority.
- 2) **He** kept “all” the commandments – except for the first & tenth commandments (Exo 20:3, 17). Notice in the text that Jesus did not mention these two in the conversation.
- 3) **He** was almost childlike in his naiveté (innocence) – Jesus looked at him & loved him as one might love a child with good intentions but terribly misdirected in life.

3. What requirements did he lack in order to inherit eternal life?

**He** lacked the requirements of denying himself (Lk 9:23) & the hatred of his own life (Lk 14:26), which prevented him from selling his treasures, dispensing the proceeds to the poor & following Christ.

**He** replaced his love for God, which was to be a love with all the heart, soul & strength (Deut 6:5; 11:1, 13, 22), with a love for material possessions.

#### 4. What was his answer and why?

**He** had no answer, just a response of sadness, which he displayed by walking away from his true responsibilities to God so that he might keep his many possessions.

**He** was like a child who wants to play with the box instead of the actual gift.

#### 5. What does it mean to “trust” in riches?

(Mark 10:24) “for those who trust in riches” – is added for clarity, but it was not necessary.

**The word** “trust” means – to expect or confide.

(1 Tim 6:17; 6:6-10; Psa 52; 62:8-11).

#### 6. What did **Peter** learn about the cost of discipleship (Mk 10:28-31)?

**Peter** spoke in (10:28) & Jesus’ response to him in (10:29-30) showed that the gain of discipleship is greater than the loss.

**In fact**, one does not lose anything of lasting value by becoming a disciple.

**Notice** Jesus’ summary statement at the end of His parable of The Unjust Steward (Luke 16:11).

#### 7. Can a person have riches and be a disciple of Christ?

It is “hard” (Mark 10:23) – to place full trust in Christ & have wealth.

**Zacchaeus** was a rare case (Lk 19:1-10).

8. Discuss what is entailed in *counting the cost* of discipleship.

**This** entails honest forethought, & the consideration of many “what if” scenarios.

**For example (Lk 9:57-62):**

1. “**Lord**, I will follow you wherever” – as long as I am not in anyway inconvenienced.
2. “**Lord**, let me first go and bury my father” – wait ‘till my parents pass away because I wouldn’t want them to know that I went against their religion.
3. “**Lord**, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house” – let me ask for the opinions of my family, because they just might make an impassioned plea for me not to do it.

9. Do you believe it is more difficult to be a disciple of Christ today than it was in Jesus’ day?

**How** can it be more difficult to be a disciple today when we have the same things to look back to & the same all-important thing to look forward to?

10. What is the cost for us to be disciples of Jesus?

**As** churches today are investing more & more capital in their facilities, how many will be willing to leave it behind for the sake of TRUTH?

**There** are multitudes living today that could never bring themselves to separate from friends & family for the sake of TRUTH.

**Many** today are playing the role of the rich-young-ruler, never fully trusting the Lord & therefore only partly committed to Him.

**God** will not accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> place in our hearts, nor will He sit in the back seat of your life.