

“Things Accomplished Among Us” (Luke 1:1)

Selected Reflections From Luke

How Much Does It Cost?

Luke 14:25-33

I’m reading from Luke chapter 14, verses 25-33.

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

There is this common question everyone is familiar with: **How Much Does it Cost?** Before you make decide, before you make the commitment – HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

While salvation in Christ is free – in that we do not earn such gracious consideration – in regard to our response,

there is what Jesus identified as the cost. He said, "count the cost."

Are you ready to take yourself off the throne of your life and let Jesus be the King of your life? Will you give up anything that interferes with obedience to Him? Will you stand for truth against the crowds of error and contrary doctrine? Will you be steadfast during the storms and adversities of life, remaining faithful to God? Consider all the involvements of a commitment to Christ. Count the cost at the beginning.

And it is this serious. The Lord said, "anyone of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."

The one considering obeying the gospel needs to be ready to surrender all, to follow Christ. These two stories of the Rash Builder and the Reasonable King illustrate counting the cost.

-Warren E. Berkley