Counting The Cost

By David Dann
Counting The Cost
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“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple... So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26-27, 33).
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• Before one decides to become a Christian he must “count the cost” involved.
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“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it -- lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’” (Luke 14:28-30).
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“Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace” (Luke 14:31-32).
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• Every decision in life will cost something.
Everything Has A Price
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- Time spent working costs you time that you could spend with family and friends.
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- Time spent working costs you time that you could spend with family and friends.
- The decision to move may cost you your relationship with friends and family members.
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- Time spent working costs you time that you could spend with family and friends.
- The decision to move may cost you your relationship with friends and family members.
- The decision to take a new job may cost you the familiarity you had with your old job and your old co-workers.
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• How much does it “cost” to follow Jesus?
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“There one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:35-39).
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• How much does it “cost” to follow Jesus?
What’s The “Cost” Of Following Jesus?
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What’s The “Cost” Of Following Jesus?

- It will cost you everything you have!
- Many people refuse to follow Christ because they are not willing to pay the cost.
- Some start to follow Christ, but then quit because they failed to count the cost ahead of time.
What’s The “Cost” Of Following Jesus?

- It will cost you everything you have!
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- The cost is great.
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- The cost is great.
- But the reward is greater!
What's The “Cost” Of Following Jesus?

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“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven” (Matthew 5:12a).

- But the reward is greater!
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• How much does it “cost” to follow Jesus?

• What is stopping YOU from being baptized?
Counting The Cost

• Jesus said his followers must be willing to give up anything.

“Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him” (Acts 8:36-38).
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• How much does it “cost” to follow Jesus?

• What is stopping YOU from being baptized?
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- We need “count the cost” in order to find out what those things are in our own lives.
What Hinders You From Being Baptized?

- In the Ethiopian’s case, nothing was really hindering (stopping) him from being baptized.

- But, there are many things that keep people from obeying the gospel.

- We need “count the cost” in order to find out what those things are in our own lives.

- What is keeping YOU from obeying the gospel?
Counting The Cost
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1. Lack Of Understanding?
Counting The Cost

1. **Lack Of Understanding?**

   - Some do not follow Christ because they don’t understand the gospel.
“Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, ‘Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ This is desert. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him” (Acts 8:26-31).
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1. Lack Of Understanding?

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- Do you understand the gospel?
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  - Jesus offers the terms for forgiveness of sins and salvation!
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• Do you understand the gospel?
  ➢ All have sinned against God (Romans 3:23).
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“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16).
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2. Lack Of Faith?
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• Some do not follow Christ because they don’t fully believe the gospel.

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).
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2. Lack Of Faith?

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“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24).
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- Do you believe the gospel?
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  - Jesus Christ is the Son of God!
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“...concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:3-4).
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- Do you believe the gospel?
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- Do you believe the gospel?
  - Jesus Christ is the Son of God!
  - He is the only way of salvation.
2. Lack Of Faith?

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- Do you believe the gospel?
  
  > “Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

  “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’” (John 14:6).
2. Lack Of Faith?

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3. Unwilling To Gladly Receive His Word?
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- Some do not follow Christ because they refuse to gladly receive the gospel.
“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them” (Acts 2:38-41).
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“Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, ‘This is a hard saying; who can understand it?’…From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more” (John 6:60, 66).
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• Will you gladly receive his word?
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“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).
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- Some do not follow Christ because they refuse to gladly receive the gospel.
- Will you gladly receive his word?
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4. Unwilling To Give Up Sin?
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4. **Unwilling To Give Up Sin?**

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“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth” (Colossians 3:5-8).
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- Are you willing to give up sin?
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- Are you willing to give up sin?
  - Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
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- Some do not follow Christ because they are not convicted of sin and are willing to continue to live in sin.
- Are you willing to give up sin?
  - Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
  - You can be set free from sin by obeying the gospel.
4. Unwilling To Give Up Sin?

- Some do not follow Christ because they are not convicted of sin and are willing to continue to live in sin.

Are you willing to give up sin?

“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness” (Romans 6:17-18).
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- Are you willing to give up sin?
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  - You can be set free from sin by obeying the gospel.
  - But you must be willing to repent of your sins in order to obey the gospel!
4. Unwilling To Give Up Sin?

- Some do not follow Christ because they are not convicted of sin and are willing to continue to live in sin.
- Are you willing to give up sin?

“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 2:38).
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5. More Of A Love For Worldly Things Than A Love For God?
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- Some do not follow Christ because they love the things of the world too much.
5. More Of A Love For Worldly Things Than A Love For God?

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).
Counting The Cost

5. More Of A Love For Worldly Things Than A Love For God?

• Some do not follow Christ because they love the things of the world too much.
“Now behold, one came and said to Him, ‘Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?’…Jesus said to him, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions” (Matthew 19:16, 21-22).
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• Some do not follow Christ because they love the things of the world too much.

• Do you love the world too much?
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• Some do not follow Christ because they love the things of the world too much.

• Do you love the world too much?

  ➢ Material things do not last forever.
Counting The Cost

5. More Of A Love For Worldly Things Than A Love For God?

• Some do not follow Christ because they love the things of the world too much.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).
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5. More Of A Love For Worldly Things Than A Love For God?

- Some do not follow Christ because they love the things of the world too much.
- Do you love the world too much?
  - Material things do not last forever.
  - This world will not last forever.
5. More Of A Love For Worldly Things Than A Love For God?

- Some do not follow Christ because they love the things of the world too much.

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). 
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5. More Of A Love For Worldly Things Than A Love For God?

• Some do not follow Christ because they love the things of the world too much.
• Do you love the world too much?
  ➢ Material things do not last forever.
  ➢ This world will not last forever.
  ➢ Would you rather have eternal life in heaven, or the temporary things of this world?
Counting The Cost
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6. More Of A Love For Man Than A Love For God?
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- Some do not follow Christ because they are more concerned with human relationships than with their relationship with God.
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- Some do not follow Christ because they are more concerned with human relationships than with their relationship with God.

“Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-43). 
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- Some do not follow Christ because they are more concerned with human relationships than with their relationship with God.

- Do you value human relationships more than you value your relationship with God?
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- Some do not follow Christ because they are more concerned with human relationships than with their relationship with God.

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:37).
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- Some do not follow Christ because they are more concerned with human relationships than with their relationship with God.

- Do you value human relationships more than you value your relationship with God?
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   • Some do not follow Christ because they are more concerned with human relationships than with their relationship with God.
   
   • Do you value human relationships more than you value your relationship with God?
      
      ➢ Are you willing to make your service to God your top priority in life?
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7. Have A Feeling Of Comfort In Almost Obeying The Gospel?
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• Some do not follow Christ because they feel like they are good enough and close enough to God just the way they are.
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7. Have A Feeling Of Comfort In Almost Obeying The Gospel?

- Some do not follow Christ because they feel like they are good enough and close enough to God just the way they are.

“‘King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.’ Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You almost persuade me to become a Christian.’ And Paul said, ‘I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains’” (Acts 26:27-29).
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- Do you have a false sense of comfort because you are close to following Christ?
7. Have A Feeling Of Comfort In Almost Obeying The Gospel?

• Some do not follow Christ because they feel like they are good enough and close enough to God just the way they are.

• Do you have a false sense of comfort because you are close to following Christ?
  
  ➢ Remember, “good” people will still be lost in sin for eternity without Christ.
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7. Have A Feeling Of Comfort In Almost Obeying The Gospel?

- Some do not follow Christ because they feel like they are good enough and close enough to God just the way they are.

- Do you have a false sense of comfort because you are close to following Christ?
  - Remember, “good” people will still be lost in sin for eternity without Christ.
  - Cornelius was a “good” man…
7. Have A Feeling Of Comfort In Almost Obeying The Gospel?

• Some do not follow Christ because they feel like they are good enough and close enough to God just the way they are.

“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always” (Acts 10:1-2).
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- Do you have a false sense of comfort because you are close to following Christ?
  - Remember, “good” people will still be lost in sin for eternity without Christ.
  - Cornelius was a “good” man…
  - But he still needed Christ in order to be saved!
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7. Have A Feeling Of Comfort In Almost Obeying The Gospel?

• Some do not follow Christ because they feel like they are good enough and close enough to God just the way they are.

“And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, ‘Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved’” (Acts 11:13-14).
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8. Waiting For A More Convenient Time?
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• Some do not follow Christ because they are waiting for a more convenient time to obey the gospel.
“And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound” (Acts 24:24-29).
Counting The Cost

8. Waiting For A More Convenient Time?

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- Some do not follow Christ because they are waiting for a more convenient time to obey the gospel.
- Are you waiting for a more convenient time to follow the Lord?
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> **Illustration**: Would you put off treatment of a deadly disease?
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- Some do not follow Christ because they are waiting for a more convenient time to obey the gospel.
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  - Illustration: Would you put off treatment of a deadly disease?
  - What if the “more convenient time” never comes?
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“...whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:14).
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  - Illustration: Would you put off treatment of a deadly disease?
  - What if the “more convenient time” never comes?
  - How do you know if you even have another day?
Counting The Cost

1. Lack Of Understanding?
2. Lack Of Faith?
3. Unwilling To Gladly Receive His Word?
4. Unwilling To Give Up Sin?
5. More Of A Love For Worldly Things Than A Love For God?
6. More Of A Love For Man Than A Love For God?
7. Have A Feeling Of Comfort In Almost Obeying The Gospel?
8. Waiting For A More Convenient Time?
What is stopping you from being baptized???