

# LUKE Lesson 39

## Discipleship; Counting the Cost (Chapter 14:25-35)

1 March 2019

Most people who are saved and born again will customarily refer to themselves as “*Christian*” or “*a follower of Jesus Christ*” or, in some cases, “*a disciple of Jesus.*” —Sadly, most believers who claim such titles are not willing to deny themselves and put Christ first and truly follow Him in all His ways. There is a cost to following the Lord Jesus Christ. Every believer needs to determine whether they’re prepared to start that race, fight that battle, and finish that course, knowing that it won’t be easy.

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**25-26** Jesus laid down a prerequisite for those wanting to be His disciple. They must love Him supremely above all other relations, including themselves.

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**Vs 27** Discipleship involves bearing our own cross. Becoming a disciple doesn’t contribute to your salvation. Salvation was accomplished by the cross-work of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship involves us laying down our life for others, just as Jesus laid down His life for us. We need to die to ourselves (our desires, interests, will, goals, dreams) and live for the Lord and for the benefit of others (See Luke 9:24).

Discipleship is accomplished through a lifetime of cross-bearing. Jesus Christ was our example (Phil 2:6-8). Our association with Him will alienate us from many of the people who used to enjoy our company.

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**28-30** **IF YOU CAN’T FINISH DON’T START.** When you quit, you’ll bring ridicule upon yourself, your church, Christianity, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Don’t make any brave declarations about what you’re going to do for the Lord until you sit down with a Bible and prayerfully consider what it is going to cost you and determine whether or not you can accomplish what you want to do (till the day you die).

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**31-33** **IF YOU CAN’T WIN DON’T FIGHT.** Before you enter a battle, you ought to find out if you’re strong enough to defeat your enemy (Satan, the world, and your flesh). You can continue to sit in the church and do nothing; the enemy will not threaten you. —But as soon as you declare that you’re going to follow the Captain of your Salvation into battle (discipleship), the enemy’s goal will be to stop you.

Make sure you understand that it is a war. Don’t start a war with the devil if you don’t intend to finish it, or else you’ll end up making a treaty with him (vs 32). The conditions of peace with the devil will involve compromises that will shame your Lord and Savior and ruin the effectiveness of the church.

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**34-35 IF YOU WON'T BUILD OR FIGHT, YOU'RE GOOD-FOR-NOTHING.** Salt that has lost its savor (taste) has lost its effectiveness and is no longer useful for anything.

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### **THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST**

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-11** Jesus Christ began by providing Himself as the foundation of the Church.
- Matthew 16:18** Jesus began to build His church (the body of Christ). He's been building it for over 2,000 years and hasn't stopped yet.
- Hebrews 12:2** Jesus will finish what He began. It cost Him his life's blood on the cross, but He had already counted the cost of my salvation and yours before He ever left Heaven to die on the cross. He knew He would finish what He started.
- John 5:36** Jesus did many works while He was on Earth. God the Father gave Him those works to finish. They had to be accomplished perfectly. If He failed to do them, we would all be lost for eternity.
- John 19:30** Jesus said, "**It is finished!**"
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### **THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL**

- 2 Timothy 4:1-8** Preach, even when the time comes that nobody listens to you (don't quit).  
Endure afflictions (vs 5) and keep on working.  
Paul bore his cross unto his death (martyrdom) (vs 6).  
He fought a good fight (warfare), he finished His course, he kept the faith (vs 7).  
He was rewarded by the Lord for not quitting (vs 8).
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