COUNT THE COST

Parables
August 16, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

- Luke 14:25-33
- Acts 20:22-24
- Luke 9:23

KEY POINTS

- Jesus never asks us to count the benefits of following Him. He asks us to count the cost.
- Following Jesus means loving Him more than family, comfort, reputation, or even our own life.
- Bearing your cross is a daily decision to die to self and follow Him.
- The parable of the tower teaches us to sit down and calculate whether we will finish what we start.
- The parable of the king going to war shows that true peace with God requires surrender of our own kingship.
- Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be Jesus' disciple.
- Discipleship is costly, but the cost of *not* following is far greater.
- The reward of finishing the race with Jesus far outweighs every temporary loss.

DISCUSSION

- Jesus said we must "hate" even our own family in comparison to Him. What does it look like practically to keep Jesus first in your relationships?
- Where are you currently tempted to put the cross down instead of bearing it?
- The builder who starts a tower but cannot finish becomes a mockery. How does this warning speak to half-hearted or unfinished discipleship?
- In the parable of the king, the weaker king seeks terms of peace. What does surrendering your "kingship" to Jesus look like in your life right now?
- Pastor Bob listed several costs (being misunderstood, serving unnoticed, admitting when you're wrong, suffering for doing right). Which one feels most challenging for you?
- How does Paul's example in Acts 20 ("I do not count my life of any value… if only I may finish my course") encourage or convict you?
- What is one specific area where the Holy Spirit is inviting you to "count the cost" and fully surrender this week?