

Have You Counted The Cost?

One of the things that I have always enjoyed is song leading. I did not always have opportunity to preach due to my dad being the preacher wherever we worshipped. I had opportunities so instead I took another approach and that was through song leading. When you read the words of the songs that we sing we can learn many lessons. I have always liked the songbooks that put the verse with where the song comes from.

Consider **Matthew 16:24-27**. Jesus states what will we give in exchange for our soul. The question is what is our soul worth? Can we place value on our soul? Is there anything physical that we will give for our soul? Is God important to us? These questions should always be on our mind. How important is God to us?

God has opened the door for us to come in to abiding in His will. However, as with all things there is a cost for us to give to make the application. Just think about this for a moment what is it that God expects from us. It is a word that people do not like to hear and that is **CHANGE**.

What is it that we need to change in our lives to count the cost and serve God? Just like in our song that we sing it is pointed out through the scriptures of what we need to do. We need to change from sin. Sin has led to us being separated and hidden from God (**Isaiah 59:2**). Sin has led to the ultimate doom for all of mankind. Sin when it is full grown brings forth eternal death (**Romans 6:23**).

Let us ask ourselves a question: "Are the things of this world really all that it is cracked up to be?" How will worldly things reward us in the end? (**Matthew 6:19-21**) When we desire the things of the world more than we do God the end result leads to us separating ourselves from God. We have not counted the cost because we will not make the right changes in our lives to serve God.

What will it profit us if we have everything in this world, but we do not have our soul? Our soul is the most important thing to us. If we lose our soul, we have lost everything. There is no profit in this world for us if we lack our soul. Why is it that many then decide to put one's own soul at risk every day? So many times, today many like to go with the norm of things. Whatever is happening we want to go along with the ride. Many choose a path of sin because one is not willing to count the cost and change their lives.

Consider what Jesus says in **Luke 14:25-33**. If we decide to build a house and we do not know exactly how much it cost to build a house, but we still decide to build the house and run out of money what good is that house? Have we truly counted the cost? This same comparison goes on with serving God in our lives. Paul as well gives a good description of the cost of serving God (**Romans 12:1-2**). It takes a living sacrifice. What this means is that it is a constant and consistent everyday lifestyle. The actual cost of serving God is living according to His will at all times. We should not allow worldly distractions to hinder our service to God. We know what it

takes, and it takes us to turn away from sin and turn to God (**Ephesians 4:17-24**). We should leave our old life behind that has grown corrupt and, in the end, leads to a life of eternal condemnation. Instead, we should begin living a life that is transformed by God in a life of righteousness. After all, the way of God leads us to the understanding of knowing His doctrine (teaching), His reproof (knowing how to judge ourselves), His Correction (knowing how to change our lives), His instruction in righteousness (His guidance and knowing the cost) (**II Timothy 3:16-17**).

We should know the cost and should ask ourselves if it is doable and if we are willing. If we answer yes to this then we will do whatever it takes and will count the cost to make it all possible. You can come and be healed by God to be made whole and ready for the eternal home with Him (**Mark 16:16**). Have you counted the cost for God?

Song: Have You Counted the Cost? By: A.J. Hodge

Verse 1: There's a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord, Where the call of His Spirit is lost, And you hurry along with the pleasure mad throng, Have you counted, have you counted the cost?

Verse 2: You may barter your hope of eternity's morn, For a moment of joy at the most—For the glitter of sin and the things it will win, Have you counted, have you counted the cost?

Verse 3: While the door of His mercy is open to you, E'er the depth of His love you exhaust— Won't you come and be healed, won't you whisper I yield, Have you counted, have you counted the cost?

Chorus: Have you counted the cost, if your soul should be lost, Tho' you gain the whole world for your own? Even now it may be that the line you have crossed, Have you counted, Have you counted the cost?