

The Cost of Discipleship (Luke 9:23-27)

I. The Qualities of Discipleship (23)

A. The Disciple Must Deny Himself

1. "Let him" – is 3rd person imperative
2. Not "he should" but "he must"

B. The Disciple Must Be Sacrificially Devoted

1. Take up His Cross
 - a. This meant death, not hardship
 - b. Everyone knew the sight of a man carrying cross
 - c. Surrounded by Romans – One way trip
2. Daily
 - a. This is an everyday thing
 - b. Not a one time thing
 - c. "I got that done when I was 8 yrs old"
 - d. Ongoing sacrifice – God produces in heart

II. The Reason For Discipleship (24-25)

A. To lose one's life is to gain life (24)

1. To seek comfort and fulfillment in this life is to lose eternal
2. To lose ownership of life to Christ is gain
3. The reward for temporal loss is eternal gain

B. To gain the world is not worth the cost (25)

1. Gaining everything now will mean nothing in eternity
2. Everything will be lost at death
3. Lose life, soul, and self

III. The Warning of Forsaking Discipleship (26)

A. Forsaking Discipleship means Forsaking Christ's Words

1. The one ashamed of Jesus and His words
 - a. This man has not taking up discipleship
2. The Son will be ashamed of those who are not disciples
 - a. One cannot forsake discipleship
 - b. And then expect Christ to be his advocate

IV. The Reward of Discipleship (27)

A. Seeing the Kingdom of God

1. Some standing with Jesus would see it
 - a. Many theories – Ascension
 - b. A.D. 70
 - c. The Transfiguration
2. We see the kingdom in rulership of Christ
 - a. He rules from Heaven
 - b. He rules from our Hearts
 - c. Unless you are born again you can't "see" the Kingdom
3. The Servants of the King
 - a. This is what discipleship means
 - b. Those who are disciples are Christians and vice versa