

## Count The Cost To Be Followers Of Jesus Christ Bible Study – Pastor Charles A. Hall – May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

- **Cost means:** From a biblical prospective the word Cost is being able to withstand the associated consequences, effect, or outcome of our free will decisions.
- **Count means:** The biblical meaning of count in the New testament means to estimate or consider
- **Obedience means:** From a bible prospective obedience means simply hearing the Word of God and acting on it! It means aligning our will to God's will, and doing what God has asked us to do.
- **Disobedience means:** From a biblical perspective the term disobedience refers to rebellion against God or simply not trusting that He knows what best for you.

As we discussed last week human beings have the freedom to make their own decisions in this life because of the free will gift that God gave humanity when He created us. We also learned that there is a severe price to pay when we use our gift of free will to make decisions that are contrary to God's will. This week we will discuss the repercussions and consequences that may fall upon Believers who make free will decision to be followers of Jesus Christ and His teaching. Even when we make decisions that are align with God's will they sometimes come with retaliation or opposition from the wicked and evil forces of this world. The one that unleashes the spiritual attack upon Jesus followers is none other than the evil one himself the devil, satan, or whatever you choose to call him. One thing we know, is that he is a Lier, a thief, and a murderer, and there is not an ounce of truth in anything that he conveys, to those who will give an ear to his influential lies. There will always be conflict and tension between the followers of Jesus Christ and those who have been spiritually fooled into believing the lies and deceptions of the prince of darkness and his evil spirits which occupy this world. For this reason, the Word of God commands His followers to separate themselves from those who have been deceived. It is for this reason that we can not straddle the fence, we can not be worldly, and followers of Jesus at the same time. We must pick the team, and if you don't pick a team, your actions and beliefs will determine what team you are on!

- **2 Corinthians 4:4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
- **John 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.
- **John 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
- **2 Corinthians 6:17-18** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

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- **James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Jesus Christ told his disciples and those who desired to be disciples that there would be a cost or price to be His followers. He also told them that they must first count the cost or price that would fall upon them if they chose to follow Him and His teaching. To help them clearly understand the point that He was making Jesus spoke to them in a parable. The parables pointed out that no one should start or pursue anything before first considering the cost or price that would fall upon them.

- **Luke 14:25-35** And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, (26) If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. (27) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (28) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? (29) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, (30) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. (31) Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? (32) Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. (33) So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. (34) Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? (35) It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.