

OPENING SCRIPTURES:

Proverbs 20: 25

Don't trap yourself by making a rash promise to God and only later counting the cost.

Luke 14:25-35

“25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, **26** “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. **27** And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.**28** “But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? **29** Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. **30** They would say, ‘There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!’**31** “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? **32** And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. **33** So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.**34** “Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? **35** Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!”

Question: How many of you like a good hotdog or a polish sausage from the fair? Some wait all year for the local state fair to show up to get your fix in. Not all of you, but some listening today can't wait for the holidays to get those chitterlings. So if you like those hotdogs, sausages, and chitterlings I have a question for you. Have you ever seen the process of them being made? Most people would never eat another hotdog if they saw the process of it being made. If one saw the slaughter of a hog, they would leave those chitterlings alone also. So what does this have to do with being a follower of Christ? The process of walking out this salvation is like the process of making these things we eat. Most people only see the big churches, fancy cars, nice suits, and fat bank accounts. But true followers know about the “not so pretty” times this walk brings. The late nights praying, crying, hurting for yourself and others. The warring with one's flesh daily. The hurtful things the world says and does to you. The feeling of loneliness when no one can comfort you. And the total dependence on God when it seems like your faith is failing. See these are the things most people aren't told about. And this is the reason most end up giving up on God. So all this being said that leads us to the topic for today. Counting the Cost of being a Christian.

Counting the Cost of Being a Christian

Today, we are going to cover eight points that either show the importance of counting the cost or why some didn't fall away.

1. **Everyone comes into the kingdom the same way through Christ.** But not everyone comes for the same reasons. **John 6** shows that some come for what they can get out of it.
2. **As a young christian, I always wondered why counting the cost was important.** My thinking was if someone is saved, if they have professed their belief in Jesus then they are good. But, that's not necessarily true. Counting the cost and discipleship go hand-in-hand.
The cost of AWOL - dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay, confinement of five years. But during war time, the death penalty may be applied.
As we see in John 6, the disciples that walked with Jesus no more received all of these punishments: Discharged out of the army of the Lord; Forfeited all future glory in heaven; and Confined to hell until the death penalty of being cast into the lake of fire!
3. **Counting the cost prepares you and helps you apply the Word to your daily walk.** Jesus says to love him more than anyone else, but we get offended and take it as we are hating everyone else. In **Matthew 12:46-50**, Jesus shows us that doing the will of the Lord will put our family aside at times, but we aren't disowning them but doing what comes first...the Lord's work.
4. **Hard times in life. Matthew 13:18-23**
5. **Helps us realize our role and that we are really nobody's trying to tell everybody about the one who saves. Matthew 3**
6. **Prepares us for the false teachers. 2 Timothy 3:1-5**
7. **Finishing the race. Hebrews 12:1-4**
8. **All Christians should know there is a time and place for everything. Eccles. 3:1-8**