

Playing on Jesus Team Bible Study Series

“Counting the Cost”

Luke 14:25-33 (ESV)

Introduction: A few months ago, we started a series called “**Playing on Jesus Team**”. In Luke 6:13 (ESV) Jesus took time to pray for the selection of His Team. **V.13** says, “**that Jesus chose twelve men from among His disciples and made the apostles.**” Remember the word Apostle means - “to send out” or “sent out ones”. We said, from chapter 8-9 Jesus spent quality time developing a Team that will do the work and mission of Jesus. We said that Every player on the team must play his or her **Part** on the team so that the mission continues. God has always operated in the team concept in the trinity – God the father, God the son, and God the holy spirit. We said playing on Team Jesus requires...

1. Obeying the Commission / Command
2. We deal with Opposition
3. We Trust God for the Provision

So, tonight we want to continue the series with Part II “**Counting the Cost**”. What does it cost to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? To be on Jesus Team?

While it is true that the invitation to follow Jesus is open and free to anyone who will accept it. Notice what **Romans 10:9-13 (NIV)** “**If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of**

all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Now what?

Jesus, however, in our lesson text set a much higher standard to become His disciple (Playing on His team). How many people you know started with the team and quit because it wasn't what they expected or requiring more than they wanted to give or participate in. What jumps out to me is **V.25 “Large Crowd”** – some people follow Jesus because of the crowd. In this passage, Luke wrote that Jesus saw a large crowd following Him and He took the opportunity to explain to them what the true cost of discipleship was. Jesus mentioned this not necessarily for the believers who were following Him, but for the people who had not yet made a commitment to follow Him.

Key thought: **Future glory makes any cost today worth it**

Luke want us to be certain about Jesus, about the Gospel, the Good News, and certain what it means to be all in with Jesus. The question that we all must ask ourselves, Is it worth it? Look at **II Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)** “*For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,*”

Playing on Jesus Team means:

I. Christ Must Be First Before Anyone Else V.26

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.”

A man must put Christ First, even before his family and himself. There is a powerful word in this text “**Hate**” It means not showing preference, indifference, simply love less.

Matthew 10:35-37 (ESV) “*For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*”

How could this be right, when **John 15:34-35 (ESV)** says, “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

The Lord is not saying here that you are too literally Hate your family and yourself. What did Christ mean?

1. Christ is to be first in a Believer's Life: before family, even before self.
2. Christ is to be put before family: even if one's family opposes his decision to follow Christ.
3. Christ is to be put first: before the companionship and comfort and pleasure of family and home.

Being a disciple and playing on the Lord's team means putting Him first in everything.

II. Sacrifice (Deny) All for Jesus V.27 (ESV)

“*Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*”

A disciple must Sacrifice himself and his desires in order to follow Christ, Play on His team, and have eternal life.

1. A disciple must Deny himself. He must kill his own selfish will, take up his own cross, embrace God's will no matter the cost, and follow Christ wherever He shall lead him. The goal of denying ourselves and taking up one's cross is not some martyr complex where you wish to die, but it is being free to follow the Jesus. Denying yourself means letting go of the illusion of controlling your destiny and replacing it with obedience to and dependence on Jesus Christ. We must be willing to die for Jesus, and we may very well have to do so. Christians throughout this world still have to follow Christ at the real risk of being killed.

2. The cross does not mean merely bearing one's particular hardship in life, such as poor health, abuse, unemployment, invalid parents, an unsaved spouse, a wayward child.

3. The Christian is to die mentally and actively. He is to deny himself daily.

Luke 9:23 (ESV) “*And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*”

III. Relinquish all our worldly Possessions V.33 (ESV)

“*So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.*”

To follow Jesus, to play on His team according to this passage is to really **Relinquish** all that we have. Along with placing Jesus above family and life, Jesus also calls us to surrender our worldly possessions.

IV. Count the Cost V.28-33

