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COUNTING THE COST

Have you ever started something and then it became too difficult and you just wanted to quit? I would have to say that most of us would say yes. There are many things that we thought were the right thing to do but found out that we could not do it. Either we were not trained, or we became weary in doing the task.

In Luke 14:28-30 there is a parable that Jesus gave. It reads like this: ***“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it began to mock him. Saying, this man began to build, and was not able to finish.”*** Jesus was not talking just about building a tower. In the previous verses he speaks of forsaking father, mother, wife, children, brethren, sisters and your own life to be his disciple. Then he speaks about bearing your own cross.

I believe that most people that are won to the Lord have not been taught the price to be a disciple for Jesus. Counting the cost means there has to be something given to obtain the end product. Most have not been taught the suffering side of Christianity here in America. Many think if they don't have comfortable seats and air conditioning that a church is not successful. I would have to say that is an illusion. If you went to a third world country where Christians have to meet secretly and are often captured and tortured, we would see things differently. They have learned that they had to count the cost to become a Christian. It is more than a few words and inviting Christ into your life. It is about death. Death to self, and alive to Christ. There are many modern-day martyrs because they “counted the cost.”

With the chaos of the world many are wondering why God is allowing it all. What is happening right now is nothing compared to what the early church went through. Hebrews tells us that many of those that walked by faith were thrown into the lions' dens. Some saw their loved ones crucified and tortured. Some were slain with the sword while others were cut in two. Many lived very destitute lives. I believe that we are going to see much persecution very soon of Christians in the world, and we have to be willing also to “count the cost.” It may mean dying for Jesus.

The Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 4:12-13: ***“I know both how to be based (brought low) and I know how to abound (be prosperous): everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*** When Paul was called by God to be an Apostle and sent blind to the home of Ananias, Ananias was told by God in Acts 9:16: ***“For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.”***

Paul counted the cost but was determined to serve God in spite of what it cost. If he had not done this there would not be most of the New Testament. We would not have the foundation of Christianity that he paid the price for.

Are you prepared to “count the cost”?