

Title: Following Christ 1: The Cost
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Word

Introduction

What is your motive for following Christ?

- a. To make it to heaven (escape hell)?
- b. To have a better life or enhanced lifestyle?
- c. To be blessed / rich / successful?
- d. To feel significant?

a. What's on your mind?

Mark 8:31-33

³¹ And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. ³³ But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

b. There is a cost

Mark 8:34-37

³⁴ When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

b1. Have a sincere desire

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

b2. Choose to renounce self

Philippians 2:1a (NIV)

¹ If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

b3. Embrace the cross daily

Matthew 11:29-30

²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

b4. Follow Him at any cost

Ruth 1:16-17

¹⁶ But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

c. Consequences or rewards

Mark 8:38

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

d. Will you count the cost?

Luke 14:27-30

²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—

²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'