

FOLLOWERS OBEY AT ALL COSTS

A **FAN** OR A **FOLLOWER**

PRECEPT

LUKE 14:28-31

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ ³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?”

MATTHEW 8:18-22

¹⁸ When Jesus saw the crowd around Him, He gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. ¹⁹ Then a teacher of the law came to Him and said, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” ²⁰ Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” ²¹ Another disciple said to Him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ²² But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

PROMISE

True followers count the cost before making life-altering decisions. They think deeply about what they are about to do before doing it. True followers of Jesus count the cost of following Him.

1. FOLLOWING JESUS WILL MEAN HE IS OUR PRIORITY

Matthew 8:18-19 tells us, “¹⁸ When Jesus saw the crowd around Him, He gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. ¹⁹ Then a teacher of the law came to Him and said, ‘Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.’” To proclaim to follow Christ is such a bold statement. Here is a scribe, a teacher of the law, showing an amazing dedication to Christ and calling Him also a teacher, acknowledging that Jesus is above him. Verses 21-22 says, “²¹ Another disciple said to Him, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ ²² But Jesus told him, ‘Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.’” Although we are to honour our father and mother, Christ shows us that there is no earthly duty that can take place over the duty of following Him. No other plans or goals in life can outweigh following Christ. We must commit to do so and we must do it now. Let us remember that delayed obedience is disobedience, same with partial obedience.

2. FOLLOWING JESUS WILL COST US EXTREMELY

1 Corinthians 6:20 tells us, “*You were bought with a high price, therefore glorify God with your bodies.*” God cost Him His one and only Son to pay the penalty of our sins. Has it ever cost you to follow Him? “If it doesn’t cost you, it doesn’t change you.” Everything in life comes with a cost. Ultimately, following Christ will cost us our lives. We are to leave our old and sinful lives to follow Him completely. If we want to be true followers of Him, let us repent of our sinful ways and ask for His help and guidance to obey Him fully.

3. FOLLOWING JESUS MEANS OBEYING FULLY AT ALL COSTS

Following Christ means obeying Him in all aspects of our lives. John 14:15 says, “*If you love Me, obey My commandments.*” This is the only way to love God, to obey His commandments and follow His ways. Exodus 19:5 says, “*Now if you obey Me fully and keep My covenant, then out of all nations you will be My treasured possession. Although the whole earth is Mine.*” God promises His presence in our lives, wisdom upon us and our plans, miracles in our lives, protection over us and our families, and blessings if we obey Him at all costs. When God prompts us to obey, we must obey Him immediately, and obey Him completely.

PRACTICE

1. Obedience. Give a few examples of people, rules, or laws you are most apt to obey. Do you obey out of fear or joy? What makes the difference?

2. Following Christ. Jesus tells people to consider the cost before making the commitment to follow Him. Why is this so important? What are examples of things we may need to sacrifice or lay aside?

PRAYER

I. Provision

- Pray for provision for families and all ministries working hard to spread the Gospel of salvation.

II. Prayer

- Pray that the church would be deeply committed to seeking God in prayer (Colossians 4:2).

III. Discipleship

- Pray for wisdom as we disciple people in our homes and communities.

IV. Gospel

- May each of us have a deeper understanding of the Gospel and may it impact our heads and our hearts.

V. Missionaries

- May God fill each missionary with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

VI. Giving

- Pray that giving would be faithful, as well as joyful, consistent, and sacrificial.

VII. Unreached

- Pray for the unreached and lost to encounter God in miraculous ways.