

## Connecting through Discipleship IV

### “The Cost of Discipleship”

There are great benefits to following Jesus Christ and becoming His disciples.

There are also requirements and costs in following Jesus Christ and becoming His disciples.

The cost of discipleship can cause many to turn around and make other choices or follow something or someone else.

I

Self-denial is one of the characteristics of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

*KJV* **Matthew 16:24-25** Then said Jesus unto **his disciples**, If any man will come after me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** <sup>25</sup> For whosoever will **save his life shall lose it:** and whosoever will **lose his life for my sake shall find it.**

Self-denial is the counter, the culture of self-indulgence.

Gluttony and drunkenness are a result of overindulgence.

Self-denial also involves denying our aims, our ambitions, and our agenda to follow our rabbi.

**Proverbs 23:20-21** Don't drink too much **wine** and get **drunk**; don't eat too much food and get **fat**. <sup>21</sup> Drunks and gluttons will end up on skid row, in a stupor, and dressed in rags.

Restraint is a virtue that seems to be getting lost in our current Western culture.

Temperance and self-control, which are fruits of the spirit, are rarely talked about in Western culture.

☐ Restraints, temperance, and self-control are major characteristics of disciples of Jesus Christ.

## II

Relationships influence our decisions, our goals, and our lives.

A decision to follow Jesus may put us in direct conflict with our family and closest relationships.

Following Jesus, our rabbi, must take priority over all of the relationships.

□Some people never become who they were born to be because of the influence of relationships.

□If you let other people plan your world, they will make it too small.

*KJV Luke 14:25-27* And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, <sup>26</sup> If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he **cannot be my disciple**. <sup>27</sup> And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple**.

The work of the cross is to **bring** death.

*KJV Galatians 2:20* I **am crucified with Christ**: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

□The way of the cross is to bring death to anything that will be **contrary** or in **conflict** with the kingdom of God.

## III

We should always count the cost before we **start** to take any action.

Cost-benefit analysis has its virtues.

Counting costs will help us in our **planning** for the future.

*KJV Luke 14:28-33* For which of you, **intending to build** a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? <sup>29</sup> Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin

to mock him, <sup>30</sup> Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. <sup>31</sup> Or what king, **going to make war** against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. <sup>33</sup> So likewise, whosoever he be of you that **forsaketh** not all that he hath, **he cannot be my disciple.**

No one begins to build unless they first sit down and count the cost if they can finish what they are building.

No one goes to war without first counting the cost if they can win.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, we will be laborers together with Him and **build** His church.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, we will conflict with the current culture, **empire**, and world in which we live.

☐Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can finish what we start, stay on course, and keep the faith as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

☐*Count the cost!*

☐*Keep your eyes on the prize!*

☐*Finish strong!*

☐*Keep the faith!*

*Rhema Christ Center  
Bishop La Fayette Scales  
Saturday & Sunday, July 6 & 7, 2024  
9:30 a.m.*