**`The Cost of Following Jesus**

Matthew 10:32-42

August 24, 2025

**Introduction**

There is an old expression: U don’t get something for nothing it will cost you something

Sometimes the cost is in $$$

Cost of the 2024 election - 15.9billion of which ~2.7B Harris Trump ~2B

Cost of James Webb telescope - 10B

Sometimes the cost is in human lives

Cost of independence from Great Britain - a war of independence

Cost of WW2 – 55-85M people died

Sometimes the cost is in pain and suffering

winning an Olympic Au medal – pain, thousands of hours training and $$

Sometimes the cost is in quality of Family life

becoming richest man in world Elon Musk, Bill Gates

Sometimes the cost is in living by principle and not compromise

Missed opportunity/being passed over/coerced to conform Liddell 1924

Sometimes the cost is in disgrace and prison

Boris Onishenko cheating in 1976 Montreal Olympics

Earlier in the gospel of Matthew, two people approached Jesus and wanted to ff Him

JS was a popular teacher, Jesus performed miracles, who wouldn’t want to ff Him

One man said: I will follow you wherever you go

JS told him the cost of following Him was no pillow for your head 8:20

Another man said: Lord let me first go and bury my father

JS told him the cost of ff Him was not to be delayed but now 8:22

Jesus called people to follow Him Mt 4:19 but He also showed them there was a cost

Today in Matthew 10:32-42 Jesus lays out the cost of following Him

**Context**

Mt10 concerns JS sending out the 12 on a training mission, He is giving them instructions

1-16 going mindset

17-25 things you should expect

26-31 how to overcome fear of being sheep in the midst of wolves

32-42 final instructions about the cost of following Him

**I. The Cost of Following Jesus – Speaking Openly of Jesus 32-33**

A. Positively JS- Whoever Confesses Jesus before men 32

Confess – to acknowledge, to talk of openly, to identify with, mouth reflects heart

Ro10:9-10, remember when JS says this it is to the 12

Confess consistent life w words, living out what say, doing Ja1:22-23

Before men – given opportunities to talk about Jesus

Jesus will confess before His Father in heaven – before God the Father

B. Negatively - Whoever Denies Jesus before men 33

Denies JS – to deny, to declare that one does not know or have dealings with

Silence, living like the world, actions, words such as profanity/vulgarity

Before men

Jesus will deny before His Father in heaven –

=>the cost of ff JS is to speak openly about Him with others

ILLUS – Festo Kivengere told story of 3 boy age 11 and two teens 1885

King of Uganda forced them to give their lives if not recant.

Opportunity to recant came, none did, asked King to repent, they burned

Singing: O that I had wings like the angels, I would fly away and be w JS

=>do people wonder if you are a follower of Jesus, they shouldn’t wonder, if you accept

the cost, they know you follow Jesus, not just that you are a good person

**II. The Cost of Following Jesus – Division In Your Family 34-36**

A. following Jesus brings division in your family 34

JS sd: do not think I came 2bring peace…I did not come to bring peace but sword

Note the repetition of ‘not come to bring peace’

A sword – divide, war, separation see Lk12:49-53

JS brought peace between God and man Lk2:14, J14:27, see also Is9:6-7

B. following Jesus brings division of close family relationships 35-36

Man against his father Mic7:6

Daughter against her mother

Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law

Man’s enemies will be those of his own household Ps41:9, 55:13

=>cost of following Jesus may be division within your family, not peace but strife

This is a bitter and hard truth to have to deal with, JS saying a cost those close 2U

**III. The Cost of Following Jesus – Love Worthy of Jesus 37-39**

A. Love Jesus more than your parents or children 37

Formula: love … more than Me…not worthy of Me

Two loves put forward

Love of parents [father or mother]

Love of children [son or daughter]

Worthy of Jesus is love above that for your parents or children

Nothing is said of spouse

The cost is that you must love God with all your heart/soul and mind

Note that the statement is ‘…not worthy of Me’ in the negative – prob 4emphasis

=>John Bunyan told to quit preaching or be thrown into prison, he was poor, wife and

Children, spent 12 years in prison great hardship to wife and children, high cost

B. Take cross and follow Jesus 38

Again note that this is stated in the negative – again for emphasis

Not take cross not worthy of Me

The cross – the Roman implement of pain, death

Follow after Jesus – willing following of Jesus, forsake all to follow

Carried by the condemned to their death

Jesus will of course die on the cross

Th cross here means death in som form, note th D does this not done 2him

The cross must be taken and Jesus followed to be worthy of Jesus

C. Lose life for Jesus’ sake 39

He who finds his life loses it – spare it lose, self-preservation above then lose

He who loses his life for My sake finds it – sacrifice your life

=>Is your love of JS a love above all else? That is the cost. Above family, own life, goals

**IV. The Cost of Following Jesus – Rewards Deferred 40-42**

A. Cost of following Jesus is high, Jesus now turns to the rewards of high cost

B. Receive rewards deferred

He who receives you receives Me

He who receives Me receives Him who sent Me

He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet *shall* receive a prophets reward

He who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man *shall* receive a

righteous mans reward.

C. Give

And whoever gives one of these little ones a cup of cold water as a D of JS

Assuredly, I say to U, he shall not lose his reward

=>Why would anyone with such costs of following Jesus, follow Jesus. The promises,

the reward is worth the cost.