

Cost of our Calling

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 9th

You simply can't follow Jesus and stay where (*and how*) you are!

(Mt. 4:19-22; Lk 5:27,28; Pr. 3:5-7,6; Ro 12:1b)

Reflection: Jesus paid the price for our Salvation/Redemption (Eph. 2:8,9). The price he paid for it was Calvary's cross. Jn 19:30 *"It is finished"* (teleo: completed, the debt is discharged)

Since the price (penalty) for sin is eternal death (Ro 6:23a) Christ death on our behalf satisfied the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:21; Jn 1:29) Now God can justly offer us the gift of forgiveness.

Ro. 6:23; Ro 5:8,9; John 3:16-18)

In Acts 16:30 the simple question was asked: *"What must I do to be saved?"* Notice the answer in vs 31: *"...Believe on (pisteuō: credit, trust) the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"*

- Reconsider Your Condition Luke 19:10 (REPENT) *"The son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost!"* (apoollymi: ruined, destroyed)
- Recognize God's Provision. Ro 10:9a *"if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus..."*
- Receive by faith (*trust*) God's Gracious gift. Ro 10:9b *"and believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believes unto righteousness"*

Jn 1:12-14; 3:3; 3:16; Ro 6:23; 2 Cor 5:21

Direction: While Jesus paid the cost (Calvary's cross) to enable us to become forgiven "born again" believers, He often spoke of the cost we'll have to pay in order to transition from a "me first" believer (Lk 9:57-62) to a "Christ first" Disciple. Lk 9:23 *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* (See also Mt 16:24; Mk 8:34; Lk 9:23; 14:27; etc.)

In fact, 12 of the 28 New Testament references to the "Cross" refer to our cross!

The Cost of our Calling. (Our "Cross")

1. Recognize/Reconsider our Position.

Mt 4:17 *"Repent (metanoēō: rethink, reconsider) for the Kingdom (basilei'a: authority) of God is at hand."*

Every Kingdom has a King, Laws, and Citizens! (See Phil. 3:17-20) See also Mt 4:19-22)

In Matthew 16:15 Jesus asked his disciples a pointed question *"Whom say ye that I am?"*

A. Peter's Confession: Mt 16:15 *"Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God."*

B. Jesus' Revelation:

- 1) About Peter Vs 17,18 *"Blessed art thou Simon.. for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, But my Father which is in heaven" 18 Thou art Peter (petros: a stone, piece of the rock)*
- 2) About the church vs 18 *"on this Rock (petra: who Jesus really is) I will build my church ..."*
- 3) About himself vs 21-23 *"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."*
- 4) About Satan (and Peter) 22 *"Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 he (Jesus) turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest (phroneo: regard, see one's interest or advantage) not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."* (Aka: Peter was a "Me first" follower)

2. Realign our Priorities

A. The Requirement: (Cost) Mt 16:24 *"Then Jesus said unto his disciples: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, (aparne'omai: disown 1 Cor 6:19) and take up his cross, (stauros: fig. self denial) and follow me."* (Akolouthe'ō: to join) (Mt 11:28-30)

- B. The Rationalization.** Mt 16:25 *“For whosoever will save his life (psyche: soul) shall lose it: And whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”* (heuris’kō: perceive, recognize, discover)
- 26 *For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose (zēmioō: sustain damage) his own soul? (remember 1 Cor 3:14) or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*
- 1) We’ll eventually give account. 2 Cor 5:10 *“we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good (agathos: beneficial) or bad. (kakos: worthless) 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, (Ps 111:10) we persuade men.”* (See also Eccl. 12:13,14; Gal. 6:6,7)
 - 2) It’s our Reasonable response. 2 Cor 5:14 *“For the love of Christ constrains us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”* (Ro. 12:1)
- 2 Cor 5:17 *“if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; (parer’chomai: perishing through neglect) behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation”*

- C. The Reward.** Mt 16:27 *“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; then he shall reward every man according to his works.”* (Mt 6:20; 1 Cor 3:14; Mt 25:14-30; Rev 22:12)
- Jim Elliot *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, in order to gain what he cannot lose!”*

Conclusion: What will God’s “Ideal life” cost Us?

Realization of our Position Lk 1-24 and Realignment of our Priorities 25-33

What does He expect from us in exchange for his Sacrifice? (His Cross)

- 1) **Recognize and Respond to his sacrifice. (Repent and Receive)**

Aka: Believe differently. Eph. 2:8,9

- 2) **Reprioritize our lives (our “cross”)** Eph. 2:10 *“For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

Aka: Behave differently (2 Cor 5:15 *“not live unto themselves”*) also Gal. 2:20

This is your calling! Eph 4:1 *“I beseech you ..walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called..”*

This is my Calling: vs 11,12 And he... gave pastors and teachers; For the perfecting (katartismos’: equipping) of the saints, (hagios: consecrated, sacred) for the work of the ministry, ...”

Application:

Jesus calls us to a radical realignment of our position and priorities!

He illustrated this with “counting the cost” of building and battling (Luke 14:28-32)

And then clarified his meaning in vs 33: *“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not (Apotassō: to arrange in proper order) all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”*

Colossians reiterates this expectation. Col. 1:18,19 Jesus *“is the head of the body, the church: ... that in all things he might have the preeminence. (Proteuo: First in Rank, Place, and Influence)*

For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness (plē’rōma: fulfilment) dwell;...”

“In every Christian’s heart there is a cross and a throne, and he’s on the throne until he puts himself on the cross. If he refuses the cross, he remains on the throne. Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among believers today. We want to be saved, but we insist Christ do all the dying. No cross for us, no dethronement, no dying. (self denial) We remain king within the little kingdom of Mansoul, and wear our tinsel crown with all the pride of a Caesar, but we doom ourselves to shadows & weakness and spiritual sterility.” AW Tozer

Mt 16:24 *“Then Jesus said unto his disciples: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow (Akolouthe’ō: to join) me.”*

Who’s on the Throne of your life? Who’s on the Cross?