

# Cost of our Calling Part 2

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>*

**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)

Jesus lived his life aware of his purposes; knowing that his sacrifice was the only way to break Satan's power over us. (Luke 19:10; John 3:14-17; Hebrews 2:14-15; Ro. 6:16-18)

He repeatedly tried to prepare his disciples for God's plan for him (*and them*)! (Mt 16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32;10:32-34; Luke 9:21-22; 43-45; 18:31-34; Jn 12:7,8; 23-28) Scripture often refers to Jesus' Cross, but 12 of the 28 references to the Cross are about us bearing our cross!

In Matthew 16 Jesus referenced both crosses" as He spoke about the importance of

**Counting the Cost of our Calling. This involves:**

## 1. Recognizing/Reconsidering Our position

**A. Jesus' Revelation Mt 16:15** *"Whom say ye that I am?"*

1) About himself Vs 16,17

2) About us. (His Disciples) Vs 18 Peter was blessed (supremely fortunate) to have God reveal To him who Jesus actually was, and to be a part of His Kingdom. (and so are we!)

3) About the Cost he'd pay to accomplish God's plan of Redemption vs 21-23

4) About Satan (*and how he works in and through us*) Vs 22-23 *"for thou savourest (phroneo: regard, value) not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."*

## 2. Realigning 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'o: to join) (Mt 11:28-30)

1) This is non optional for a disciple. Lk 14:27 *"whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."* (mathētēs': a learner)

Vs 28-32 He then illustrates with the importance of counting the cost of building and battling.

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."*

2) We can't really "learn of Him" without following (joining) him. Mt 11:28-30

3) We won't begin to understand Him until we commit to following (joining) Him. Phil. 3:10

**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? (The "he shall suffer loss" or 1 Cor 3:14)*

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.”*

- 1) This is the theme of scripture. (Mt 6:20; 1 Cor 3:14; Mt 25:14-30; Rev 22:12)
- 2) This is the Command of scripture. Col. 3:1-6

Jim Elliot *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, in order to gain what he cannot lose!”*

## Conclusion:

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

- 1) Recognize and Respond to his Sacrificial offer. (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...”*

*Notice 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!

Luke 14: 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.”*

Jesus isn’t asking us to take a vow of poverty, But a vow (correct view) of our Priorities! (Ex. 20:2,3; Mt 6:33; Ro 12:1,2)

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. 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?**

