

# COUNTING

the

# COST



**THRIVE**



A vibrant cosmic scene featuring a bright starburst or galaxy core on the right side, emitting rays of light. The background is filled with colorful nebulae in shades of blue, green, and red, set against a dark, star-filled space.

When Heaven touches Earth

*Beautiful*  
**COLLISION**

**The paradox of thriving is that flourishing as a follower of Christ is bedded in discipline and self denial**



**World: Do what you want!**

**Christian: Obey what God wants!**

**It is from the place of surrender/sacrifice that we experience the true measure of life:  
Power flows - Peace reigns - Perseverance prevails**

**Christianity begins and remains linked to the loss our life or the daily laying down of our life:**

**Death of "Self": Self ambition + Self importance**

**Count the cost of what you are committing too!**

**Large crowds were traveling with Jesus,  
and turning to them he said:**

**“If anyone comes to me and does  
not hate father and mother,  
wife and children, brothers and sisters  
Yes, even their own life, such a person  
cannot be my disciple.**

**And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me  
cannot be my disciple.**

**“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? For if you lay the  
foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who  
sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build  
and wasn't able to finish.'**



**“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?**



**If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.**

**In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.**

**“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.**

**“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” Luke 14:23-33**

## What does the text state or imply?

Broad assertion: Our commitment to Jesus has to be something we have deeply considered and weighed up! It is never to be a rash or frivolous decision.

There is a tension between there being “large crowds” and the repercussion that on hearing what Jesus speaks next, many will turn away! The crowd wont be large!

Our love for Jesus has to be the fiercest expression of any love we inspire over people/possessions - **Hyperbole**

**Even the love of our own life is to be denied**

The listener is strongly commended to estimate the cost of following Jesus (through the two examples) and to decide if we are willing to pay the price! **The price is carrying a cross**

## What does the text state or imply?

We are shown the folly of making a decision to follow Jesus without knowing how difficult the choice will be and then give up because we didn't realise how demanding it would be! (Builder)

We can't expect to build your own empire or preserve your own status and comfort. The call to follow means risking everything even losing a whole Kingdom.

Everything we are, everything we have, everything we hope to be, has to be understood is forfeited to the call to follow Jesus.

Without this kind of radical devotion we are like salt that has lost its worth. No good for flavouring or preserving!

But Jesus knew that just a little salt, just a remnant of the crowd around him, just a committed few would not walk away when the cost got too great, too personal, too heavy.

# What does the text state or imply?

The whole discourse Jesus is making, bluntly asks the question of every listener are you really willing to sacrifice it all?

Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear - Spiritual hearkening  
Only perceived and understood with spiritual ears

Am I willing to give up my will, my preferences?

Am I willing to give up my ambitions?

Am I willing to give up my time?

Am I willing to give up my career?

Am I willing to give up my possessions?

Am I willing to give up my popularity?

Am I willing to give up my choice to decide what is right  
for my life everyday?



# SACRIFICE



This concept of sacrifice is embedded so deeply everywhere in both the Old Testament and New Testaments.

- It is part of the DNA of true worship

Sacrifices were both prescribed/spontaneous acts of worship that signified devotion and allegiance

Jesus is making the point that He requires of each of us, the same equal measure of surrender/sacrifice

O.T. sacrifice were demanding on one's resources, animals, crops + Finances - N.T. sacrifice is no less demanding, but far more personal.

Present our bodies as a living sacrifice  
A daily taking up of "THEIR" cross.

**THRIVE - SACRIFICE**



# Sacrifice is NOT Punishment – It's Privilege

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. Philippians 3: 7-9.

**Whatever the Lord asks us to give or to give up  
we have to see that sacrifice in the light of  
honour and homage**

**It's giving something up  
to gain something greater  
Kingdom seeking!**



**We must not sacrifice to the Lord  
that which has cost us nothing  
2 Samuel 24:24**

**For it to be sincere sacrifice, it has to cost us!  
The more it costs us, the greater the value of the sacrifice**

**10% is a significant sacrifice we are called  
to make as our first and best offering**

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had." Luke 21:1-4

**To be real a sacrifice, must cost, must hurt, must empty  
ourselves - Mother Theresa**

**Where there is no sacrifice, there is no fire!**

**Sacrifice is the prerequisite for the fire of God to fall**

**O.T. - There were never any manifestations of God's presence/power without some form of sacrifice and commitment**

**It requires the free will of man to volitionally climb up on the altar and self sacrifice - Invokes the will of God**

**Without you and me responding in "service" there can be no response, no manifestation, no breakthrough, no victory, no revival and no fruit**

**Heaven and Earth become intersected**