

RADICAL THE BOOK

BY DAVID PLATT

CHAP. 1 THE COST OF FOLLOWING CHRIST

Lk. 14:25-33

Supporting Passages Mt. 4:18-22; Lk. 9:57-62; Phil. 3:1-14

We have boiled down what it means to follow Christ to the A-B-Cs; Admit, Believe and Commit, we throw in a prayer for salvation and we think that's all there is. That will perhaps get us going but Jesus' actual teaching is radically different than this simple outline. What does it cost and what is required to be a follower of Christ?

I. IT COSTS DEVOTION ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE

Vs. 25-26

How would you define devotion? Webster "profound dedication" Review "Puddle of Tears" section of book pg. 4-6. They had gathered in secret they studied, prayed and cried the section ends with a quote from a teenage boy Ling "I have told my family that I will likely never come back home. I am going to hard places to make the Gospel known, and it is possible that I will lose my life in the process"....the taught us Jesus is worthy of our devotion. Jesus was not as concerned about the numbers of followers as He was about their level of devotion. In **Acts 1:15** as the early church gathered in the upper room there were only 120 believers gathered after 3 years of Christ's ministry. In **Jn 14:12** Jesus told the disciples that they would do greater works to what was Jesus referring what is the greatest work Christ does? **Acts 2:41** What He taught in these verses was to become homeless, let someone else bury your family don't even say good-bye. The word "*hate*", Greek *miseo*, here is more of a relative term it can mean love less, that compared to our love for Christ all other relationships could be characterized by hate in comparison.

II. IT COSTS SACRIFICING WHO WE WERE FOR WHO HE IS

Vs. 27

Draw a cross on the board. What types of things immediately come to mind whenever you see this symbol? The cross is a symbol of death, carrying one's cross meant be willing to die for Christ. We have to totally let go of all our pursuits in order that we may embrace Jesus fully. From the video you saw how David Platt believes that in many American churches we cater to ourselves the message of Christianity is abandoning ourselves. READ pg. 6 bottom start See pg 7 "we have missed what is radical about our faith and replaced it by what is comfortable".

III. IT REQUIRES FULL CONSIDERATION BEFORE WE COMMIT

Vs. 28-32

Write "aspiration" and "goal" what is the difference between an aspiration and a goal? Aspiration is more of a hope or desire a goal is something we are striving for. In these verses Jesus gives 2 examples in His culture that people need to

first count the cost before they commit to a campaign; building a tower and going into a battle or war. **What is the point** of these two examples? Being a disciple of Christ is not something that we just wait to happen it is something that we must plan for. .

What are those “costs” to believers? Christians may face loss of social status or wealth. They may have to give up control over their money, time, or career. They may be hated, separated from their family, and even put to death. **Read pg. 15-16** start “I remember when I was preparing....wrong”.

IV. IT REQUIRES RADICAL ABANDONMENT OF EVERYTHING WORLDLY TO ALLOW TIME TO FULLY PURSUE HIM

Vs. 33

Being a disciple of Jesus is an all-or-nothing pursuit there should be no casual observers. Most of us imagine the benefits and blessings of following Christ rather than really counting the cost. The question is do we really believe He is worth sacrificing everything for....is He worth it? The cost to be counted is **giving up everything** for Jesus. To be preoccupied with money or possessions is to miss the demands and joys of true discipleship, as with the people who refused the host’s invitation to the Kingdom (**14:18-20**). Again Jesus painted no rosy picture of a high-paying job with all the benefits. He said that the way would be rough and would be a way of self-sacrifice. Oddly enough, however, this is the only way to true fulfillment and satisfaction

The man was asking for permission to wait until his father died—an indefinite delay. The reason is not given, but whatever it was, the man wanted to do it “first.” Whether his concern was fulfilling a duty, having financial security, keeping family approval, or something else, he did not want to commit himself to Jesus just yet.

Jesus’ response: “**Let those who are spiritually dead care for their own dead**” points out that those who want to follow him should count the cost and set aside any conditions they might have. In other words, let those who are spiritually dying (those who have not responded to the call to commitment) stay home and handle responsibilities such as burying the dead.

A high priest and those who had taken the Nazirite vow were required by the law to avoid the corpse of even a parent ([Leviticus 21:11](#); [Numbers 6:6-8](#)). See pg 17-18

1. How do you think that some people have tried to explain away these verses and make them less demanding?
2. How have our churches and maybe us, led people to believe that following Christ is easy?
3. What challenges do you face in carrying your cross as a follower of Jesus?
4. What exactly was Jesus calling James & John Andrew & Peter to do? Follow Him. How do you think they perceived what that meant? Do you think they had a totally understanding? Read Mt. 18-22

SHOW VIDEO SEGMENT DO YOU BELIEVE THIS BOOK?

1. David described his own struggle with this how are you struggling with the idea? Don't be paralyzed by fear or doubt admit where you are to God.
2. Where do you see yourself in 5 years where do you think Jesus would like to see you? What aspects of your life are standing in the way for you to be fully abandoned to Jesus? Pick 1 or 2 to prayerfully work on. What is the the greatest commandment?

PRAYER:

Whatever You say, I believe You;

Whatever You do I trust You

Wherever You lead I will follow You,

I devote myself to You above all others,

I give up all me desires and pursuits for Yours,

There is no cost to great for being Your disciple,

I abandon everything that I may come after You,

For you alone are worthy