

Prophet's Column

"Have You Counted The Cost?"

By Jim Little

And whosoever doth not bear this cross, and come after Me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? (Luke 14:27-28)

Our subject at this time is, "Have You Counted The Cost?" The Lord Jesus Christ spoke the above quoted Scriptures after he told how many rejected the invitation here in Lk. 14.

Let me ask each one the question, have you counted the cost of the loss of your poor soul? Now is the day of repentance, now is the day of salvation. You have counted the cost of many things. You young folk who have just finished school, you have counted the cost of a higher education. But what about the cost of losing your soul? Never thought about it did you? There is nothing wrong with getting an education if you use it to the glory of the Lord. But what if you should gain all the education you want and then come down to the end of life and your soul goes out into eternity lost? Have you counted the loss of your soul? Have you? You may think that because you are young, your life is ahead of you. The undertaker is burying young people as well as old. You have no guarantee of another day. As a believer I have no guarantee of another day. So if you go on and gain all your worldly pursuits, what has it profited you when you come to die?

Have you ever considered that the loss of your soul will cost you an eternity of torment in Hell? Have you counted the cost of your soul being tormented forever and forever? The Bible is the Word of God and sets forth very clearly that there is a Heaven to win a Hell to shun. Have you ever thought about it like that? So many of you are anxious to get out into the world on your own. Where are you going? What if you should die in your present state? Where would you spend eternity? How many of you young folks have sat down and asked of the Lord; Lord, what will you have me do? What is your will for my life? Have you ever done that?

Let me tell you my young friends, if you do not bow your knee to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and come to know Him



J. M. Little

as your Lord and your Saviour, then it will be the loss of your poor soul in Hell. Have you counted the cost of missing Christ?

Yes, there is a line drawn by rejecting the Lord. It is the goodness of God that leads a sinner to repentance (Rom. 2:4) God has been good to you all these years, but have given no thought to Him as Lord and Ruler over your life. You want to take your destiny in your own hands so to speak. My dear young friends, you can't do it. God holds the destiny of your life and soul in His hands! The quicker you realize that the better off you will be. There is nothing in this world to compare with salvation in Christ. If you knew Christ you'd have something the world cannot offer, and you would be prepared to go out in life because Christ would go before you, and with you. He would be your Hope and Guide. As you are now, you don't know the Lord, and the Devil is leading you. You think that with education you will be alright. Education has become your god, but at death, you will find that your god of education cannot keep you out of the flames of Hell. I'm pleading with you now to turn to the Lord. Ask the Lord to turn you.

I remember when I was finishing high school, I felt I had to go out and climb mountains and build bridges as it were. I had a heart of covetousness that reached around the world. But I'm glad some years later the Holy Spirit awakened me to my lost

condition, letting me see that I was lost and on the road to Hell, turning me about face, and put a hunger in my heart after Christ. I was not and could not be satisfied until Christ was revealed to my heart. Then I had Someone to keep me for all eternity. I have safe conduct from here to Heaven. Over the years I've thought many times, what if I had died back there when I was glorying in the world? I would have died and gone to Hell. What a tragedy it would have been.

You may answer me that have been religious all your life and was brought up in a religious home. So was I, but I was still lost. Your being religious is no sign you are saved. The world can give you education, but the world cannot give you Christ. Education has its place, but education is for a time and season only. Your soul is going to live forever in Heaven or Hell. Christ is eternal, He alone can bless your soul for this life and for the next. Have you counted the cost of missing Christ?

When I look back on my life before God saved me and see just how blinded I was in the world, I tremble because only the grace of God brought me out of that worldly blindness and delivered me. I was the most blind. I thank God for saving me. How is it between you and the Lord my young friends? Eternity is too long to miss Christ.

You have not only counted the cost of an education, but you have counted the cost of some land and a house. Your

heart is caught up in many dreams of your future. There has been much talk about your future hasn't there? And this one and that one has offered you advice on what you ought to do with your life.

You've been told that you should go into this field of learning, or that field of learning because of your talents and your abilities. You've received advice from all sides so to speak. But not one time has some one advised you to seek the Lord first, find out the will of God for your life. Listen friend, you will never be happy until you find the will of God for your life. First, the will of God for your life is that you see the Son and believe on Him (Jn. 6:40) And then, whatever occupation there is for you, the Lord will lead you into it.

Every soul is going to fulfill the will of God, willingly, or unwillingly. It is best to fulfill the will of God willingly. No soul out of Christ is happy, everyone out of Christ is miserable.

There is the broad way which leads to destruction in Hell, and there is the narrow way which leads to eternal bliss in Christ. You will depart this life from one of the two ways, and you will go into one of the two places of eternal abode, eternal destruction or eternal bliss in Christ.

Man is an atheist at heart and will not believe God's judgments. But God is true and cannot lie. Where do you stand? Have you counted the cost?

I plead with you to turn to the Lord. It is better to get saved while you are young, while you are tender, for year after year your will grows harder and harder.

Turn to the Lord now.

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