

Counting the Cost for the Coming Year

Text: Luke 14:25-33

Introduction:

1. In our text we find that, as today, many profess to come after Jesus. But He warns them that to truly follow Him entails counting the cost!
2. Each day we are to examine ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5) whether we are in the faith - thus counting the cost. Today holds some special things for each of us – the ending of a year upon us (this is the last assembly this year) and thus a beginning of another. Also today we will meet together as a congregation to consider the budget and program of work we will be involved in as a congregation for the coming year.
3. This congregation can only be as she ought to be if we all determine to count the cost and make the decisions (sometimes sacrificially) which are needed in our personal and congregational life. This lesson will explore some of the decisions before each of us.

Discussion: We must count the cost to us...

I. Of Being a Christian

1. Either you are or are not, there is no middle ground (Matthew 12:30)
 - (1) There is only one way (Hebrews 5:9; Galatians 3:26-27)
 - (2) Many are not willing to "count the cost" and thus sacrifice what is essential to becoming a Christian (Matthew 7:13ff; John 6:68)
2. Being a Christian takes much more than just the initial actions which place us in Christ
 - (1) Titus 2:11ff
 - (2) Luke 6:46; Colossians 3:1-3; Romans 6:1-4
 - (3) Matthew 15:9

II. Of Being a Proper Family Member (Ephesians 5:22-6:4)

III. Of Being A Proper Member of Society (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:11-16)

IV. Of Being a Member of the Congregation Here at 39th Street

1. All of the above is essential, but your life as a child of God cannot be separated from your activity within the congregation. And the congregation cannot accomplish her best without you (Ephesians 4:16)
2. What are some things which I need to consider?
 - (1) Involvement / attendance at the assemblies (Hebrews 10:23-25)
 - (2) Involvement in the worship and work (Ephesians 5:19; 1 Timothy 2:12; Titus 2:1; Hebrews 5:13...)
 - (3) Proper consideration for one another - 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

Conclusion:

1. Today we will make a decision, in fact most have already made the decision. The first evidence of it will be at the meeting we have this afternoon the next will be at the evening worship.
2. Then each day your life will manifest - at home, at work, at school and here at the work and worship of the congregation - whether you are truly counting the cost as a child of God for the coming year.