

James Daily Devotional

Week 1-Day 3: Counting the Cost

Scripture of the Day

Luke 14:25-35

²⁵Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. ³⁴“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Focus Statement

You cannot truly follow Jesus until you have settled in your heart that He is worth more than everything you might have to surrender.

Explanation

Jesus turns to a large crowd and does something that seems almost opposite of what we would expect. Instead of making it easier to follow Him, He raises the standard. He tells them to count the cost. He makes it clear that following Him is not casual, it is complete.

Jesus speaks about renouncing everything. This does not mean that every person will physically lose everything, but it does mean that nothing can remain above Him in your heart. Your relationships, your plans, your comfort, your security, your future, all of it must be surrendered to His authority.

This is where many people stop short. We want Jesus as Savior, but we hesitate when it comes to making Him Lord. We want forgiveness, but we resist surrender. But Jesus makes it clear that true discipleship requires both. When you follow Him, you are no longer the one in control of your life.

Counting the cost is not about fear, it is about clarity. It is understanding what following Jesus truly requires so that when challenges come, you do not walk away. A disciple who has already surrendered everything cannot be shaken when things get difficult.

Conviction, Invitation and Hope

Conviction:

There are areas of our lives that we still hold onto tightly. We say Jesus is Lord, but we resist surrendering control in certain places. Whether it is our future, our relationships, or our comfort, we are hesitant to fully release it.

Invitation:

Take an honest inventory of your life today. Identify what you are holding onto and bring it before Jesus. Open your hands and surrender it to Him, trusting Him fully.

Hope:

Jesus is not asking you to give things up to leave you empty. He is inviting you into a life that is fuller, freer, and more secure than anything you could create on your own.

Reflection Question

What am I afraid Jesus might ask me to surrender?

Where am I still trying to maintain control over my life?

Do I truly believe that Jesus is worth everything?

Action Step

Write down one area where you struggle to surrender. Pray over it and verbally give it to God today, choosing to trust Him with it.