

Kanye West's **\$20 million** Hidden Hills mansion project faced constant delays due to his changing design ideas and perfectionism. Despite years of work, the home remained unfinished, highlighting his failure to fully count the cost and complete the ambitious renovation.

Following Jesus will cost you something - danger is we approach our relationship with Jesus and fail to count the cost.

Luke 14:27–30—27 *And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'*

I. FOLLOWING JESUS

- A. Following Jesus / being a disciple is NOT automatic
 - 1. We Live in a world of Cultural Christianity
 - a) Name the name of Christ but my life style does not actually change / what we speak is not an accurate reflection of how we are living
 - 2. Jesus is very clear on what relationship with him will look like will look like
 - a) Bearing his cross - the idea that there will be a cost

Luke 14:27 *And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*

- b) Saying yes to Jesus means we are saying no to other things / plans - desires - options — areas we will have to say no to
- 3. Many men can have this attitude of keeping their options open
 - a) Calling/ Discipleship - simply one of many things I could be doing

B. A life that has been truly changed by Christ will have certain evidence and proof

- 1. **Hunger for God** - *Our text Jesus says "come after me" - Before salvation we go after many things*
 - (1) Appetites of the flesh/ goals / hobbies / entertainment / relationships / drugs alcohol sex
 - b) The health of a person in many ways can be determined by their appetite -
 - (1) As a disciple what appetites are you feeding - what are you hungry for - not talking about food

1 John 2:16 *These are the ways of the world: wanting to please our sinful selves, wanting the sinful things we see, and being too proud of what we have. None of these come from the Father, but all of them come from the world.*

- (2) In your spiritual diet - are you hungry for what God values? What things are you consuming
- 2. Revelation of sin

1 Thessalonians 5:22 *Avoid every kind of evil.*

- a) Revelation of sin means we develop a healthy disgust for sin / if God is repulsed by it than I am too
- 3. Willingness to change
 - a) This is not a matter of try hard and be good - rather its a willingness to allow Jesus to continue to change us on the inside so that outward actions match inward change

C. Discipleship is a choice

- 1. Background - Jesus Tells this multitude of people what following Him looks like

John 6:65–66 *And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." 66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.*

- a) What is true of salvation is also true of discipleship and doing the will of God - its a choice
 - (1) Sad reality is many men have incredible potential and yet no see it come to pass in lives simply because they are unwilling to obey and settle the issue of calling

II. COUNTING THE COST

Luke 14:28 *For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it*

A. The Cost of being a disciple

- 1. **Cost of Time:** Being a disciple is a submission to a purpose and calling

- a) Not a buffet of many different interests and hobbies
- b) *Serious men - I recognize there are men here that are unsure about what the will of God is for your life - these classes are meant to cultivate an atmosphere where you can hear from God*

2. Cost of our plans:

Luke 18:22–23 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” **23** When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth.

- a) Saying yes to Jesus means we are saying no to other things we may want - Jesus can Vito my plans

3. Cost of Comfort:

- a) Doing what God has called you to do will feel uncomfortable because we don't make all the decisions for our lives - not my will but your will be done.
- b) For some - you may have to make choices to live at a lower standard of living in order to do the will of God - *have to make choices about climate/ cities / personal preference / debt etc.. choices effect destiny*

B. Jesus tells us the danger of not counting the cost

1. Calling decisions effect more than just you — *all who see it begin to mock him*
 - a) First you will be observed by God - God is patient but the longer you delay in obeying God the harder obedience becomes
 - b) Second - observed by other people / If you're married - be observed by your wife - difficult for wives to get excited when their husbands want to do the will of God / then fall back and never follow through
2. The work God started in you is left un finished
 - a) Potential of what God could do in your life is stopped / not fully realized

C. The Hope

1. God makes it possible for us to do His will
 - a) Bible is truth in tension - Jesus calls us to his purpose — makes our responsibility clear — and gives us opportunities to repent and move forward in our calling

III. CALLING IS AN INVITATION TO A PURPOSE

- A. This means God makes a choice about our lives = Things HE plans for us
 1. More than something we simply decide - God has an opinion about what he wants from your life
 2. The Cost is always worth it
 - a) In my own life - I look at the small sacrifices we had to make in comparison to being used by God
 - b) I traded my time and energy and comfort and in return people are saved and on their way to heaven because God used my life - THERE IS NO COMPARISON - it was ALL worth it.
- B. Calling involves something larger for our lives than we planned
 1. Job career hobbies - NO!!! Cities, Nations

Matthew 4:19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

2. Jesus told Peter and John - I'll make you fishers of men / do you want to spend the rest of your life doing this or do you want to reach people
3. Looks different for each man -
 - a) Moses - burning bush / dramatic voice of God b) Elisha: Mantle placed on - man of God sees it in him.
 - c) Disciples - Gradual awareness - see Jesus and eventually get the revelation about their future d) Paul vision / dramatic appearance
4. How ever your calling comes - its a conviction that God has a higher purpose for my life
- C. The point is this: God can help you settle the issue of calling in your own life
 1. Ask God to show you what He wants from your life - be willing to do it
 2. Once you are called you cannot live the same
 - a) Ask the question: How will the choices I make today effect my calling down the road? Am I making progress towards being qualified?