

Sermon Notes

The New Life Part 2: Count The Costs

May 28th – 29th, 2022

- **The New Life**
- Jesus changed the world with two words, “Follow Me.”
 - o We are called out of the old and into the new, to be born again, to live new life in Christ.
- In this series we are looking at what that new life looks like, common experiences on that road.
- **Part 2: Count The Costs**
- It’s Memorial Day weekend, a time where we give honor where honor is due.
 - o Some have sacrificed much for our nation...even the ultimate sacrifice.
- Today’s question: Is the Kingdom of God worth sacrificing for?
- The New Life involves counting the costs and making a decision whether or not to follow Christ.
 - o Too many people are in decision limbo...they are “sort of” followers of Jesus. That’s no good.
- 1) The New Life starts with you making the decision to follow Jesus.
 - o For some, this is quick and easy! My wife as a 4 year old...
 - o For others, like me, this can be an arduous process that takes lots of time.
 - My quick story. **Matthew 7:7-8**
- 2) I give you permission, if you feel like you need it, to count the costs.
 - o Go ahead and own this decision. Not pressured. Not merely assuming yourself in.
 - o But, before you make a big decision it’s not a bad idea to look at all angles.
 - o Jesus encourages this in **Luke 14:27-33**.
 - A tower is good. Winning a battle is good. But look at it and see if you are able.
 - This is a big commitment, so count the costs.
- 3) Make sure you count both the sacrifices and the blessings!!
 - o Two major mistakes people make in counting the costs: only looking at the sacrifices or only looking at the blessings.
 - If you just look at the sacrifices it can seem too big of a price, and you go away sad.
 - If you only look at the blessings you can end up like the shallow or weedy soil.
 - o You do have to give up your life...but God gives you a better one in return!
- 4) It will boil down to faith at your time of decision.
 - o You can enquire and seek, and that is good. But proof is elusive.
 - Dark matter, 11 dimensions, parallel universes...support the spiritual realm.
 - Free will and the spirit vs the determinism of natural law.
 - Internal consistency of the faith...Luke 14:25-26...see devotions...
 - Signs from Heaven.
 - o Still, we aren’t going to know it all, so we must follow Jesus by faith.
 - o I give you permission, if you feel like you need it, to decide to follow Jesus by faith.
- Let’s finish today by talking about the Apostle Thomas’ decision making process.
 - o **John 20:19-20, 24-29**.
 - Thomas did not believe the 10 other Apostles.
 - I think Thomas was given a special opportunity to receive the blessing of v29.
 - However, he failed at that point.
 - When Thomas saw, he believed and said, “my Lord and my God!”
 - There was no turning back for Thomas after that point.
 - o If you are ready, by faith, to make the decision to follow Jesus as your Lord then very good.
 - If you can take hold of the blessing of v29 I applaud you.
 - o If you need to count the costs for a while, like I did, then very good. I pray you do that well. And when the time is right you will know.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.