

Following Versus Foxes, Feathers, Farewells, and Furrows"
Luke 9:57-62

Disciples of Jesus Christ...

I. Count the Cost

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'" Luke 14:28-30

II. Count Christ as First

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. Colossians 1:18

III. Count All Other Things as Loss

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. Philippians 3:7-8

Taking It Home:

There are many who imagine the Christian life to be all pleasure and happiness with no persecution or affliction. To respond then, "Lord, I will follow You," carries with it little if any commitment. Too often they will gladly wave the palm branches and cry "Hosanna!" yet run from the cross. Disciples of Christ bear the cross as they fix their eyes on the crown.

There are many who believe the Christian life is to be worked into (here and there) their own business and everyday life. Christ is not content to be our amusement, occasional interest, momentary comforter, or intermittent advisor. Disciples of Christ surrender their whole life to Him and make Him the Alpha and Omega (first and last) of their affections.

There are many who taste of the Christian life yet still hanker after the world. Like the children of Israel, we too often respond to God's gift of deliverance with complaints and false affections for the things left behind. Disciples of Christ cherish the new life and look forward to the abundant blessings of eternity.