

The Cost of Discipleship

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Luke 14:25-35.
- B. Salvation is easy and free, but discipleship will cost you everything. (Luke 9:62)

II. We are to put Christ before family.

- A. If we do not love ourselves, then how could we love our neighbors?
- B. The man who looks after his health puts his family before Christ.
- C. Yet we are to put Christ above family and self.
 - 1. The love we have for Christ should be so great that any other love could be called hate.
 - 2. Jesus loved his own mother by preparing someone to take care of her. (John 19:25-27)
 - 3. You love God by keeping His commandments—by doing what He says. (John 14:21)
 - 4. We are to love our families. (Isaiah)
 - 5. Jesus loved His mother, but compared to His love for God it was no contest.

III. We are to daily take up our cross. (Luke 9:23)

- A. Our cross is an implement of metaphorical death.
- B. We need to build into our lives going the extra mile spiritually, mentally and physically.
- C. Having one's own way is a primary thing that needs to die.
- D. We are to take joy from physical or emotional suffering.
- E. Whatever you do, do it heartily unto the Lord.
- F. We ought to forgive those who infringe on our rights. (Isaiah 53:3)
- G. The yoke of Jesus is light and easy. (Matthew 11:28-30)
- H. The disciples never quibbled about dying literally. (John 21:18-19)
- I. We are to put others before ourselves.
- J. Missionaries have to bear the cross of becoming identified with the people. (Matthew 6:33)

K. The more you love Christ, the more you love your family. (Luke 14:26)

L. Self knowledge does not flatter. The more you know yourself, the more you can be closer to Him.

IV. Question and answer.

A. How do you balance family and goals?

1. Your family is your goal.
2. Your wife is your partner.
3. There is no division between the ministry to others and the family.
4. Whatsoever you do, do it to the glory of God. (Colossians 3:23)

B. The relationship between the Navigators as an organization and a movement.

C. The daily schedule and struggles of the speaker.

D. The times that cost has been higher than others: where he has had to take seemingly more menial tasks.

E. The times that appeared that God let the speaker down were brief.

F. The story of the speaker finding a wife. (John 12:26)

G. How to choose a mate.

1. One looks for a mate that fits in well with him.
2. You want a wife going your way in regards to the ministry.

H. Support for taking care of one's family: Abraham and Isaac.

1. Abraham did not know that his son would be spared on the altar.
2. However, Abraham had faith that God would raise him from the dead.
3. We have to have faith that our family situation is for the glory of God.
4. We look for opportunities to give up our way to see what God will do.

Application questions

1. What is the relationship between our love for our family and our love for Christ? Explain.

2. What does it mean to take up our cross? In what areas of your life have you failed to do this?

3. Memorize Luke 9:23 and write it below.
