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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

WHAT WILL IT COST YOU?

Most of us are careful when buying a product or service that we get the best price available. We do not want to pay any more than is necessary. So, we shop around until we find a price, we are willing to pay. In our consideration of a product or service we might ask, is the value to me worth the price that must be paid? In other words, we spend the necessary time and effort to count the cost.

Jesus taught the necessity of considering the cost of serving Him. Jesus said, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26-27). What did Jesus say it would cost one to follow Him? Loving family and one's life **less** than one loves Jesus and a willingness to bear one's cross and follow Him. Yes, it costs to follow Jesus. The question is, is the value gained worth the price one must pay?

Jesus illustrated the necessity of counting the cost of following Him in Luke 14:28-33, "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 — lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace." Then Jesus concluded, "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."

Are you willing to forsake all that is contrary to the will of God to follow Jesus? If you are willing to pay that price you will obtain the forgiveness of sins, all spiritual blessings, and the hope of eternal life in heaven (Romans 5:8-9; Titus 1:2; Ephesians 1:3).

What will it cost you if you refuse to forsake all and follow Jesus? The answer is everlasting regret and punishment in hell (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Revelation 21:8). Is an eternity of suffering worth a few moments of sinful pleasure? Heaven or hell – which is worth the price you will pay? Visit greenplainchurchofchrist.org for more information.