

The Cost of Being “All in for Jesus”

(Luke 9:23-24)

In the verses above Jesus tells what it takes to be one of His disciples. According to the Lord, being all in for Him requires more than just going to church on Sunday morning. Being all in for Jesus requires that we count the cost of what it means to truly come after Him.

As we consider the Lord’s words in Luke 9:23, notice three things that He says authentic discipleship requires.

I. Denying Ourselves

- A. The first part of Luke 9:23 is a paradox. A paradox is statement that appears contradictory or absurd, but is in fact true. Jesus used several paradoxes in His preaching (Matthew 16:25; John 9:39; Matthew 20:16).
- B. Denying ourselves means we must be willing to deny our will for Jesus.
 - 1. It is actually the same word used to describe Peter’s actions in Matthew 26:69-72. Peter denied the Lord to save his life. We must learn from his mistake!
 - 2. We must understand that...
 - a. We are to be a living and holy sacrifice (Romans 12:1).
 - b. We have been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20).
 - c. We no longer live for ourselves, but Christ lives in us (Galatians 2:20).
 - d. Dying for Christ is to be counted as gain (Philippians 1:21).
 - e. We must be willing to give up all in order to gain Christ (Philippians 3:7).
- C. Are we willing to do this?

II. Taking Up Our Cross

- A. Jesus did this in a very literal way. But there are ways in which we must also do this.
 - 1. This requires suffering (Luke 9:22; Acts 5:41; Revelation 2:10; 1 Peter 4:16; Matthew 10:34-36).
 - 2. This requires sacrifice (Ephesians 5:2; Romans 12:1). Like Jesus did this for us, we must be willing to do this for Him.
- B. Are we willing to do this?

III. Following Jesus

- A. The apostles did this (Mark 1:16-20).
 - 1. This requires commitment (John 6:66-68).
 - 2. This requires devotion (Matthew 26:69-75).
 - 3. This requires trust (Proverbs 3:5-6).
- B. Are we willing to do this?

Conclusion: The decision to NOT be all in for Jesus has huge consequences (Luke 9:24).