

I. We must count the cost to follow Jesus

A. The cost of worldly comfort

“Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)

B. The cost of temporary security

C. The cost of human independence

D. The cost of selfish dreams

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’ (Matthew 16:24)

E. The cost of suffering

“Peter said to him, ‘we have left everything to follow you.’ ‘I tell you truth’, Jesus replied. ‘No one who has left home or brother or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive hundred times as much in this present age and in the age to come, eternal life.’ (Mark 10:28-30)

II. We must follow Jesus immediately

A. A delayed commitment is no commitment

B. We must see that our mission is urgent

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

C. Jesus must be the highest priority in our lives

“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

D. We should invest our lives in the kingdom of God

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it he hid it again and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought it.” (Matthew 13:44)

III. We must move ahead with a forward focus

A. We must be totally committed to God’s will

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)

B. We must fully surrender to God’s service

“For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

C. We must live in the kingdom of God

1. We live in the kingdom by faith in God
2. We live in the kingdom by obedience to God
3. We live in the kingdom by total surrender to God

“Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.” (Romans 12:1)

4. We live in the kingdom by complete reliance upon God