



## The Cost of Discipleship

Regarding Christian discipleship, it is clear that there is great importance attached to rising above peer as well as societal pressures and speaking the truth as followers of Jesus. We all know that sometimes following Jesus will bring hardship and even rejection. Jesus reminds us that part of the cost of discipleship involves renouncing things that may bring us pleasure but in the end only serve as an obstacle to living a life of faith. The “possessions” our Lord speaks of may in and of themselves be harmless, but when so much time and energy is spent taking care of them, something is going to suffer. That something often is our relationship with God.

Jesus is asking us to give Him quality time. We may find that our schedules are so busy that we are not able to give Jesus the quantity of time we would like. What then matters is the quality, rather than the quantity, for our prayer life. We may need to let go of some of the clutter that has built up in our lives over the years so that our minds and hearts may be truly open to what Jesus wishes to say to us.

If we are going to follow Jesus, let us ask ourselves how well equipped we are to be a disciple. If we realize we are not quite ready as we would like to be, we must then ask, “What must I do in my life to be totally free to give the best that I have to the Lord?” Yes, renunciation of that which takes up too much of our time and prevents us from giving God quality time, is what Jesus is asking of us. We must carry the cross our Lord gives us. Is it all worth it? Absolutely! Being a disciple of our Lord may bring hardship and struggle, but in the end there is nothing but glory and perfect peace that await us! Let us follow Jesus wholeheartedly today and begin to free ourselves from concerns that can only satisfy materially. Spiritual fulfillment is really what is most important here, and is the only thing that lasts.

*Father David*