



Daily Verse and Comment

[Luke 14:33](#)

(33) So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

New King James Version

Not only must we count upon forsaking all, we must also be willing to run the full distance to arrive at the [Kingdom of God](#) ([Hebrews 12:1](#)). In the two illustrations, [Jesus](#) teaches that discipleship must include planning and sacrifice ([Romans 12:1-2](#)). In the first, He instructs that, before a person begins to build, he should be sure he is willing and able to pay the full cost of the project. Similarly, Jesus' followers must be sure they are willing to pay the full price of discipleship.

In the second, He explains that we must be willing to sacrifice pleasures, distractions, material possessions, even family, if we are unable to prevail with them—that is, if they would prevent us from serving [God](#). This principle of sacrifice is essential in the realm of discipleship: One must be willing to give up **everything** for Jesus. Many professing Christians have been unwilling to renounce former, false beliefs. They syncretize God's truth with doctrinal baggage brought from their previous religious fellowships, never quite forsaking the traditions of men ([Colossians 2:8](#); [Galatians 1:13-14](#)).

The first parable represents deliberation and adequate preparation, and the second calls for stamina and fighting strength to face a foe with greater strength. In this war against our powerful enemies—[Satan](#), [the world](#), and our human nature—we must be willing to count the cost and to sacrifice. We cannot enter the fray hastily or carelessly, but we must exercise [self-control](#). Paul writes, "Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection" ([1 Corinthians 9:26-27](#)). We will overcome them only with the help of the Spirit of our King.

— Martin G. Collins

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