

背景：民眾見過耶穌施行很多奇蹟，以為他到耶路撒冷是作王、作彌賽亞（受膏者）來解救他們，脫離外邦人的統治和壓迫。因此，耶穌這一段話是要跟隨他的人明白，跟隨他要付出什麼代價。

大綱：

1. **你心裡愛耶穌有多少？** 在你心中，耶穌佔什麼地位？是主，還是你的僕人？（路 14:26）李文斯敦的例子 Dr. David Livingstone...

當我們真正愛主的時候，我們才能用主無盡、無私的愛來愛我們的父母、配偶、兒女和自己。**個人見證**（太 16:25）。

為什麼愛耶穌要勝過愛家人和自己的生命？原因：

a. **次序的定律：**既然耶穌是宇宙的創造主，生命的定律是由他來設計的。他知道我們生命的運作方式，所以他說出這個優先次序的真裡（太 6:33; 1 和 0 的次序）

b. **愛的回應：**耶穌願意作絕對的委身、願一次獻上自己為祭（來 9:28）：作燔祭來為我們完全擺上而捨身、作平安祭使我們能與神再次和好、作贖罪祭來救贖我們的罪性、作贖愆祭來贖我們每日所犯的過犯、和作素祭來引領我們過敬虔聖潔的生活。因為耶穌的死，我們得生。這大愛能令我們忘記嗎？能令我們不作回應嗎？

c. **不怕為主犧牲：**基於神的大愛、大能和信實，我們雖死反得生（太 16:25），所以大可放心為主耶穌完全擺上（創 22:2, 5-8 亞伯拉罕的見證）。

2. **你順服耶穌有多少？** “背著自己十字架來跟從”（路 14:27）是比喻“完全順服”，表示每個信徒必須不顧世俗人（包括家人）的反對、容忍一切的負荷、恥辱、唾罵、嘲笑、和疼痛來跟隨主耶穌。耶穌說的兩個比喻——蓋樓和打仗——是提醒跟隨他的人，必須仔細地計算過作基督徒的代價，好知道自己究竟在做甚麼，免得日後被引誘走回頭路。

3. **你願撇下多少來跟從耶穌？**（路 14:33-35）一個基督徒可能會因信而失去工作、地位或財富；因信而失去一己的控制權；因信而失去家人的支持，甚至失去自己的性命。你願意嗎？雖然不容易，但與耶穌同負一轡（太 11:29-30），靠主的大愛和大能就可以過得勝的生活。不要作表面的基督徒，要作鹽作光，不單只防止世俗的腐敗，還要為新的國度帶來美味的靈糧。這是我們基督徒的使命。

總結：

1. 每個考慮跟隨耶穌的人應該有冷靜頭腦，認識到這信仰可能帶來的一切後果，好得心理上有個準備，不是盲目的開始興建而不知能否完成工程，也不是明知會戰敗而仍然開戰。

2. 信仰也是同樣需要清醒的頭腦和思維、平靜的內心、和清晰的目標。若不是決志終生順服主耶穌、靠著神的恩典承擔聖徒的職責、為主作美好的見證，可以說沒有一個信徒是真正作好跟隨耶穌的準備。

3. 我們作基督徒的靈程不會是天色常藍：我們往往要否定自己來治死罪孽、應付情慾的鬥爭、世俗的敵對和嘲笑。我們可能不受人歡迎、遭受家人的白眼、被人視為愚蠢、喪失自主權、甚至自己的生命，這一切我們都應當有個好好的準備（路 14:33）。

4. 跟隨主耶穌是終生的委身，是專一的信靠順服。基督徒寧可忍辱負重，也絕不應三心兩意，有走回頭路的心態。若存有不合則離的意向，或是有“暫時信，但保留將來不信的權利”之心志，就不如不跟從耶穌。我們基督徒的使命，不單只防止世俗的腐敗，還要為神的國度帶來美味的靈糧。

趙陳暖儀的音樂見證：I Surrender All.

祝福

July 6, 2014 Sermon Outline on Counting the Cost of Discipleship (Luke 14:25-34)

Background: Many people, having seen Jesus' miracles, followed him, hoping that he was the Messiah (the Anointed) that would rescue them from foreign oppression. Thus, Jesus wanted them to understand what it would take to follow him.

Outline:

1. How much do you ____ Jesus? (Luke 14:26). Dr. David Livingstone... Do you love Jesus more than your family or your own life? Is Jesus truly your Lord? Or is he your servant at your beck and call? Why should you love him? My personal testimony (Matt. 16:25). Reasons for loving Jesus can be many, depending on how you experience him as Lord and Savior. Some reminders:
 - a. Law of Order: Jesus, being Son of God the Creator, determines the laws governing the universe, and the priority of life to make it abundant (Matthew 6:33; sequence of 1's and 0's).
 - b. Response to divine love: Jesus gave himself up as the Sacrificial Lamb once and for all for the redemption of our sins, so that we can be reconciled with God and live a godly life (Hebrews 9:28). We have life because of his death. Shouldn't we respond accordingly to his love?
 - c. Fear not death: the God we believe in is the Giver of Life (Matt. 16:25) and has the power of resurrection. Why fear then? (Abraham's faith in Gen. 22:2, 5-8)
2. How much do you ____ Jesus? "Take up your cross to come after me" (Luke 14:27) means complete obedience to Jesus, despite persecution, shame, mockery, and pain in the world. The two parables on building and going to battle emphasize the importance of calculating your cost before you jump in to follow Jesus. The last thing he wants from his followers is half-hearted commitment.
3. How much are you willing to ____ in following Jesus? (Luke 14:33-35) Admittedly, it is not easy to surrender everything, including one's own life, but taking Jesus' yoke upon you, and learn of him (Matthew 11:29-30) will empower you to live a victorious life. So, stand up for Jesus, and be a true Christian. Be salt and light to a world that is dying, and help to bring in a new dawn – the Kingdom of God.

Summary:

1. Each follower of Jesus should have a ____ mind, having calculated the cost of discipleship and be prepared for the long and arduous nature of one's spiritual journey.
2. Faith needs a clear ____, a calm spirit, and clear goals. You cannot be a true Christian if you fail to recognize that your obedience to the Lord has to be complete and life-long, living a godly life through God's grace, and not through your own merits.
3. Our spiritual journey will not always be blessed with blue sky: we have to die to the temptation of sin, struggle with our own lusts, and face hostilities and ridicule from outside. We may be unpopular, suffer separation from our family, regarded as stupid, lose our autonomy, and even our own lives. We should be prepared for these (Luke 14:33).
4. Following the Lord Jesus is a lifelong commitment to trust and obey. Christ would rather have us not follow him than serving two masters, or back-tracking in our spiritual journey. Our mission is to save a dying world and be an effective witness for Christ in the building of His Kingdom and in our spiritual warfare.