

There are (3) staggering observations here.

1. There is a cost to follow Jesus.

JC Ryle writes: "It does cost something to be a real Christian, according to the standard of the bible. There are enemies to be overcome, battles to be fought, sacrifices to be made, an Egypt to be forsaken, a wilderness to be passed through, a cross to be carried, a race to be run. Conversion is not putting a man in an arm-chair and taking him easily to heaven. It is the beginning of a mighty conflict in which it costs much to win the victory."

2. There is the danger of not counting the costs at the beginning.

☛ Remember when God's people, Israel were released from their bondage and crossed the Red Sea?

☛ In John 6 Jesus fed the 1,000's, preached His Bread of Life Sermon.

☛ Remember Herod?

☛ Demas at the beginning was excited about the Gospel and its spreading alongside of Paul.

3. The cost must be paid if a person is to be a follower, a disciple.

## The Character of a Christ Follower Pt.2

Luke 9:23

CFBC

5/24/15

Introduction:

I. He will be characterized by **denying his own life & desires** in pursuit of **Christ's life & desires** no matter the personal cost. 23-26

A. The Expected Characteristics of a Follower 23

1. Self Denial

2. Cross Bearing

*Lenski writes, "Christ leads with His cross, and all His disciples, each loaded with his cross, follow in one immense procession like men who are being led to be crucified."*

*"Geldenhuys, "He who desires to become His disciple and servant will every day have to be willing to put his own interests and wishes into the background and to accept voluntarily and wholeheartedly the sacrifice and suffering that will have to be endured in His service....the things which have to be suffered, endured and lost in the service of Christ..suffering even unto death, as a result of true faith in and obedience to Him."*

Walter Chantry, *The Shadow of the Cross: Studies in Self Denial* "In my judgment, the real reason why so many do not talk about self-denial and cross-bearing as an essential ingredients of Christianity is that we just don't like these ingredients. We like having our sins forgive....we like the promises of Christianity...we want to be told God will heal broken relationships, resolve inner conflicts, and prosper our work. We like that. But self-denial! Taking up a cross! Suffering? We dislike that teaching. So the cross is neglected, and professing Christians are allowed to go their own ways, live for self, and, at best, miss the fullness of the gospel. At the worst, they are encouraged to think they are saved when actually they may not be Christians at all."

Calvin- "Saints ought to prepare themselves for a life that is hard, difficult, laborious, and full of countless griefs.....  
"When we defend the truth of God over against the falsehoods of Satan, or protect good and innocent people against injustice and injury, it may be necessary for us to incur the hatred and indignation of the world, so that our lives, our possessions, or our reputation may be endangered."

### 3. Follow Me