

## “THE COSTS & BENEFITS OF FOLLOWING JESUS”

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**INTRO:** The Christmas story is an invitation to become a devoted follower of the Jesus whose birth we celebrate.

### **I. What does it Cost us to be a Devoted Follower of Jesus?**

A. Count the cost of following Jesus (Luke 14:28-30).

1. The modern church has dumbed down the cost, which has produced immature Christians.
2. Jesus said to be one of His disciples we must be willing to forsake all He asks us to (Luke 14:33).
3. Salvation is a free gift, but discipleship costs you everything!
4. Following Jesus is orienting your life around being His disciple (Matt. 4:19) and making disciples.
  - a. Follow Jesus – His teachings, lifestyle & mission!

B. Are these costs too high? It depends on what we get for what we pay. Do a cost/benefits analysis.

### **II. What are the Benefits of being a Jesus Follower?**

**A. We get Jesus & His Kingdom (Luke 1:30-33)!**

1. He is great (v. 32a).
2. He is the Son of the Highest [Supreme] (v. 32b).
3. He reigns as King (vv. 32c-33a; Matt. 2:2).
4. His kingdom is eternal (v. 33b; Dan. 4:3; 7:14).
5. His kingdom becomes ours (Dn. 7:18; Lk. 12:32; 22:29).
6. His kingdom cannot be separated from Himself.

**•Pursue Him even more than His kingdom!**

**B. We get a Treasure Hidden in a Field (Matt. 13:44)!**

1. Diligently search for this hidden treasure (Matt. 6:33).
2. Joyfully pay the price for the treasure.
3. The value far exceeds the price!

**C. We get a Pearl of Great Price (Matt. 13:45-46)!**

1. Diligently search for this beautiful pearl (Matt. 6:33; Deut. 4:29; Prov. 8:17; Jer. 29:13).
2. Joyfully pay the price for the beautiful pearl.
3. The value far exceeds the price!

**CONCLUSION:** To be a fully devoted follower of Jesus will cost you everything, but you will gain even more!