

## Following Christ Will Cost You

### Introduction

- 7.3B people on the earth today; Christianity (2.2B), Islam (1.6B), Hinduism (1B), Buddhism (0.5B), Judaism (0.01B) – masses of **dedicated** followers
- Massive crowds followed Jesus during his ministry
- The majority in the crowds selfishly wanted something from Jesus
- His true disciples left everyone/everything to follow Jesus
- His true disciples trusted Jesus with their future

### I. The Priority of Christ (v. 25-26)

#### A. Love

No **created thing** or **person** is to have the highest priority for a believer's love (1Jn. 2:15-17; 1Tim. 6:10; Mt. 10:37; 22:37). **Self-love** or preservation must never have the highest priority for a believer. Christ alone warrants the highest priority for a believer's love – "If anyone comes to me".

#### B. Loyalty

No **created thing** or **person** is to have the highest priority for a believer's loyalty (Lk. 16:13). **Self-loyalty** must never have the highest priority for a believer.

**Love & loyalty for Christ must have the highest priority for any believer.**

### II. The Sacrifice for Christ (v. 27-33)

#### A. Sacrifice of self (v. 27)

Commitment to Christ must not have selfish stipulations. Commitment to Christ must not be contingent on personal pleasures, desires or even needs of life (Lk. 9:23-24).

#### B. Sacrifice of things (v. 28-33)

Commitment to Christ involves sacrificing everything in order to **finish & win** in this life (v. 28-32; Mt. 10:22; Rom. 8:37). A believer must be willing to lose all earthly possessions for Christ & the will of God (v. 33; Lk. 9:25).

**The unconditional sacrifice of self & things is essential for a true believer!**