

TRANSFORMING LOVE

The Cost | Luke 7: 25-33



Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.



For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'



Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.



1. God's entire force and focus is on redemption.

He is ALWAYS working redemptively. Redemption is salvation and deliverance. In and through the institution of his kingdom, God is lovingly making all things new, whole, and holy.



2. God is completely about relationship.

The way He works, the way He interacts, the way He brings about redemption is through relationship with Himself. Christianity is fundamentally relational, not behavioral.



3. To bring about redemption, and to deepen relationship into intimacy (union), God's means, is through this pattern:

Life » Death » Resurrection



“I set before you life and death... if you... love the Lord your God and follow his ways... God will bless you. But if your heart strays, if you refuse to listen, if you let yourself be drawn into worshipping other gods and serving them, I tell you, you will perish.



Chose life, then, so you and your descendants may live in the love of God, obeying his voice, **clinging to him, for in this, your life consists.**”

Deut. 30:15-20



Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

Matt. 16: 24-25



“I tell you truly that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat; but if it does, it brings a good harvest. The man who loves his own life will destroy it, and the man who hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. If a man wants to enter my service, he must follow my way; and where I am, my servant will also be.” *Jn 12:23-26*



1. What we live to
2. What we die to
3. What brings new life



For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. I once thought **all these things** were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.



For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For **God's** way of making us right with himself depends on faith.



I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! *Phil 1:21; 3:7-11 NLT*



My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal 2:20



Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

2 Cor 5:14-15 NLT



Since you have been **raised to new life with Christ**, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you **died to this life**, and your **real life is hidden with Christ in God**.

Col 3:1-3



Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple. Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple.

Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple.



“What would you say that you absolutely need for your life to be valuable, meaningful, and worth living? What tends to be foremost in your heart and mind? Whatever it is, you’re probably quite attached to it, just as you may also be quite attached to anything you feel gives you a sense of **safety, security, or certainty in this world.**



God, in His love, continually calls us to let go of insecure things, so we can find both our truest meaning and our eternal security in Him.

When we fully trust God, we find we don't need other things (possessions, roles, relationships, or certainties) in the same way we once thought.



If you hold on to something other than God for your sense of meaning or security in life, you'll eventually begin to feel anxious, insecure, fearful, indignant, or abandoned.

But letting go of those imperfect sources of meaning and security and putting the weight of your trust in God will open you up to the surprising world of friendship with God, the source of our deepest joy.”

Jess Mason



“As I ascend in relationship with God, I confess less because I have less to confess.”

True spiritual maturity, though, is the opposite. It's not an ascension, it's an archaeological dig as we discover layer after layer of what was in us all along.



Maturity is discovering the depths of my personal brand of fallenness and the depths to which God's grace has really penetrated.

The pathway of spiritual maturity is descent, not ascent. A maturing community is a confessing community — not a church without sin, but a church without secrets.”

Tyler Staton



“Like the Hebrew people in the desert, we long for the comfort and security of Egypt. [that which we know] We cry out to God, “Did you bring me out here to kill me?” The answer, of course, is yes.”

Robert Mullholland





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That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is
spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you,
'You must be born again.' It is the Spirit
who gives life; the flesh is no help at all.

Jn 3:5-7; 6:63



We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin".
(enslaved to self-reliant ways of living apart from God)

Rom 6:6



If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has come.

2 Cor 5:17



Put off your **old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be **renewed**

Put on the **new self, *created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.***

Eph 4:22-24



1. God is **ALWAYS** working redemptively!
2. He is redeeming US. Bringing us back into the relationship he intended for us.
3. How? Through life, death, and resurrection.



“In the Middle Eastern tradition of learning, the student wants to stay very close to the rabbi so as to not lose any of his words. The student never knows when or where the rabbi will begin teaching!



“We have left all we had to follow you!”
And Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come.”

Lk 18: 28-29



“Your real, new self (which is Christ’s and also yours, and yours just because it is his) will not come as long as you are looking for it. It will come when you are looking for Him.... Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it.



Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him, everything else thrown in.”

C.S. Lewis



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