

Act Normal

“The Cost of Acting Normal”

Greg Wendschlag July 2, 2016

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?...Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand men?”
Luke 14:28-34

Disciple: “mathetes” - a student who professes to have learned certain principles from another and maintains them on that other’s authority.

The Cost of Acting Normal

1) A disciple must be willing to acknowledge Jesus before others. Matt. 10:32-33

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father In heaven.” Matt. 10:32-33

“One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” Acts 18:9-10

2) A disciple must be the servant of all. Matt. 20:25-28

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and go give his life as a ransom for many.” Matt. 20:25-28

“There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.” Acts 4:34-35

3) A disciple must **love God** and others. Matt. 22:36-40

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matt. 22:36-40

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them...The jailer drew his sword to kill himself...But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!” The jailer said, “Sirs what must I do to be saved?”

Acts 16:22-30

4) A disciple must deny himself daily, loving God **above family, friends and self**.

Luke 14:25-27; 29:23-26; Mt. 10:34-39

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers, and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:25-27 (see also Lk. 29:23-26; Mt. 10:34-39)

“They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city.” Acts 14:19-20

5) A disciple must not be **conformed** to the world. Rom. 12:1-2; Jn. 17:14-19

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Rom. 12:1-2 (see also Jn. 17:14-19)

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men ad been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13

6) A disciple must love the **Word of God** and carry it out in obedience. John 14:15, 21

“If you love me, you will obey what I command... Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” John 14:15, 21

“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name”...Peter replied, “We must obey God rather than men!” Acts 5:27-31

7) A disciple must be willing to **give up everything** to follow Christ.

Luke 5:11, 27; Matt. 19:28-30

“So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him....and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.”

“Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers, or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.”

“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered...those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.” Acts 8:1-4