

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**SERMON NOTES**  
**February 4, 2024**

**The Heart of Discipleship: Counting the Cost**

*Disciple*

So what is a disciple:

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*Count the Cost*

**Rich young Ruler**

**Mark 10:20–22 (HCSB)**

20 He said to Him, “Teacher, I have kept all these from my youth.”  
21 Then, looking at him, Jesus loved him and said to him, “You lack one thing: Go, sell all you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.” 22 But he was stunned at this demand, and he went away grieving, because he had many possessions.

He must be \_\_\_\_\_, and those things that use to be first in our lives must become \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 9:23–26 ESV**

<sup>23</sup> And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? <sup>26</sup> For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

**Believer’s Bible Commentary R. Invitation to Take up the Cross (9:23–27)**

Having outlined His own future, the Lord invited the disciples to follow Him. This would mean denying themselves and taking up their cross. To deny self means willingly to renounce any so-called right to plan or choose, and to recognize His lordship in every area of life. To take up the cross means to deliberately choose the kind of life He lived.

What does it cost to follow Jesus you may wonder, let me give you an idea:

- You will at times face opposition from those you love because of your faith
- You will face harsh criticism from the world around you in the name of Jesus
- You will need to forsake the comforts of this life and trade them in for obedience (like the rich young ruler)
- You will need to become dependent on God
- You will need to prioritize Jesus First
- You will need to listen to the Holy Spirit
- For some, you must even face death declaring Jesus

**Luke 14:28–30 ESV**

<sup>28</sup> 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? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

So what is your cost today? What is it you need to give up or reprioritize?

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