

# Counting the Cost

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

*"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish."* (Luke 14:27-30).

What are we willing to give up for Jesus and what is the cost? It would appear that many do not consider this when they make a profession of faith. I have witnessed some through the years who pledged to follow the Lord, but then seemed to forget and stop coming to church after awhile. Did they find that it took more to walk with the Lord than they had thought, or were they not really committed in the first place?

I think that part of the fault lies in the teaching of some who preach "Health & Wealth," and lead some

to think that there will be no problems for them. Then when there is sickness, death, or some other problem they feel let down. There are those who think that they are forsaken by the Lord during these times, then they give up. The devil will convince some to think that they were not saved, or the bad things wouldn't have happened to them.

Then there are the ones who don't want to face persecution, or mocking, for being a Christian. We have been blessed in America to have the freedom in the past and so we don't really know what persecution is. This is starting to change, little by little. If many people can't stand someone laughing at them, or making some unkind comment, how we they take being jailed, beaten, or even worse. Christians in many countries today could tell them what it is like to be persecuted by an evil government. In **Revelation 2:10**, the Lord said, *"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."*

The faithful will stand for the truth, regardless of

what may happen. Others will not confess what they say they believe, because "It may hurt business." They are not as concerned about pleasing the Lord as they are about making a dollar. Faithful unto death? I don't think so.

Others are afraid to tell it like it is because they wouldn't be accepted by their friends if they spoke up. God's Word says that a man will give account unto the Lord, not to his friends.

If we will serve the Lord, as the scriptures say, we will suffer persecution in one form or another. Some folks won't have anything to do with us because we don't go along with the things that they want to do. The Christian will be called "old fashioned, square, a fanatic, or much worse." That's sad, especially when some of those who will do it will call themselves Christian.

The Lord knew that these things would happen and so He warned believers in **Luke 6: 22**, *"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake."* Hypocrites and sinners will separate themselves from the believers here, God will do the separating at the judgment.

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**Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI**

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**A BRIDE FOR ISAAC**

ABRAHAM HAS TOLD HIS STEWARD, ELIEZER TO GO TO THE LAND OF ABRAHAM'S BIRTH AND BRING BACK A YOUNG MAIDEN TO BECOME THE WIFE OF HIS SON, ISAAC, NOW...

...ELIEZER SWEARS A VOW THAT HE WILL DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO BRING THIS ABOUT...

FOR SUCH A JOURNEY, THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE!

...THE SERVANTS GO INTO THE PROVISION TENTS TO PREPARE FOR THE LONG TRIP...

...NOT ONLY FOOD, BUT GOLD, SILVER, AND GEMS WILL BE NEEDED, FOR MANY GIFTS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE...

...STURDY CAMELS ARE LOADED WITH FOOD, WATER, WINE, GARMENTS, AND RICH GIFTS OF SILKS, AND FINE WOOLS - NOT TO MENTION SHEKELS OF GOLD, AND TALENTS OF SILVER, FOR OBTAINING A WIFE IS A VERY COSTLY AFFAIR, AND SERIOUS, AS LONG JOURNEYS THROUGH THE WILD COUNTRY OF THESE ANCIENT TIMES ARE FILLED WITH MANY DANGERS AND HARDSHIPS!

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