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| **Slide** | **Sermon** |
| 1 | Title Slide  **The High Cost of Christian Living**  **Luke 14:25-33** |
| 2 | Intro – A nationwide network of banks placed a full-page ad in a recent magazine with the headline “Before you start looking, better find out how much you can afford.”  Once they had the reader’s attention, the ad continued,  “*When most of us look for the home of our dreams, we lead with our hearts. We see the wood in the dee and the tile in the bathroom and the morning sun in the kitchen. But we don’t see the need to talk about the money, just yet. That can wait. SO, starry eyed, we fall in love with a house; before we know how much house we can afford. How human, how worrisome, how unnecessary! Because the last thing on your mind should be the 1st place you start.”* |
| 3 | Not looking ahead and not counting the cost is a universal problem. We express the problem in phrases like “Look before you leap” or “Don’t bite off more than you can chew.”  We ask do you know what you are getting into.  For instance, when the boys were young, we decided to build a tree house. I picked out a spot and the trees I’d use.  4 trees, roughly forming a square – 4’ x 5’  But as we began – Wade and Riley wanted it bigger – we choose 4 other trees – Now the space was roughly 10’ x 12’.  We started to work – quickly realized we didn’t have enough wood, nails and help to undertake such a larger operation!  Had I counted the cost, I’d convinced Wade and Riley of the advantages to a small treehouse.  Year and half later, we are still working – most done but still not finished. |
| 4 | Counting the cost! Considering what you’re getting into  Habitat House-cost - 1. level of need, 2. willingness to put in sweat equity on other's homes, and 3. make affordable mortgage payments.  This principle applies to every area of life –   * Marriage * Parenthood * Education * Vocation * Religion |
| 5 | In today’s lesson, Jesus applies it to discipleship.  He urges his many followers going with him to Jerusalem to count the cost of becoming one of his disciples. When they know that his invitation to follow is at the same time an invitation to die, they may change their minds.  No life is completed until it is a life in Christ. |
| 6 | And just how high is the cost of this life when completed in Christ? Very High!!!  Billy Graham said “Salvation is free, but Discipleship costs Everything!” Yet…it is worth it! |
| 7 | 1. Hate his father, mother, spouse, children, even his own life   Does this mean that you have to tell off your relatives and refuse to buy them Christmas presents; you don’t care for them.  Did Jesus not also say, “love you enemies”? If your family were enemies, Jesus would have you love them.  Hate is not meant here in the popular sense of the word. In the Bible, love and hate one matter of the will rather than of the emotions.  To love is to accept and submit; to hate is to reject and refuse to submit to. In this verse, ‘hate’ means to place family and self in 2nd place to Jesus as the price of discipleship. |
| 8 | Good News Bible says it like this: “Whoever comes to me cannot be my disciple unless he loves me more . . .”  As Christians, it is not that we do not love family and self, but that we love Christ more than these.  And yet, this is still a high cost – When you look into the eyes of your child or loved one and sense the self-sacrificing love you have for them.  Then you know how much love Christ demands!  How much is the high cost of Christian living” “hating family also? |
| 9 | 1. Carrying the cross!   Let’s be clear – it’s not Jesus’ cross. No one can die for him as he died for us.  Let’s be clear, it’s not the various hardships or suffering of the world.  All people, Christian and non-Christian alike suffer the tragedies of the world.  Our CROSS is something voluntarily endured for another’s good – so that person might know and sense the love of God.  Our cross is for others. |
| 10 | Story of a missionary working in a Central American country. She had worked herself out and was sent back to the US for rest and recuperation. Doctors told her she would kill herself if she continued like this. In time she regained her health. As she began to feel better, she went out to buy equipment and supplies she would need to expand her mission work. Once she went into the store to purchase a globe for teaching. The clerk showed her several models including a large one that lighted up with the click of a switch. She really didn’t have quite enough money for the lighted one. As the clerk said, ‘Of course the lighted world is more expensive”, she responded as she handed the payment, “Yes, I well know a lighted world cost more.”  To follow Christ costs a lot. We carry the cross of other’s hardships to witness to God’s love for them. |
| 11 | What is the high cost of Christian living? Hate, Cross.   1. We must renounce all that we have.   Nothing can stand between you and God.  “renounce” means to say ‘goodbye” or “farewell”. We have to say ‘goodbye’ or subordinate anything that is more important in our lives than Jesus. Jesus is first – all others and all thing have to come 2nd. |
| 12 | But how can we pay this high a cost of Christian living? Many that followed Jesus couldn’t. They fell away!  How can we keep from falling away?  Fishing story –  Man sitting on a pier with a basket and ruler beside him. He caught the first fish and measured it. Exactly 6 inches and he put it into the basket.  Caught a 2nd fish, measured it – 5 inches – into the basket it went.  After a while, the pole really bent, and he caught a large fish. Took out his ruler, measured it – 24 inches then he promptly threw it back into the lake.  A young boy was observing all this from his fishing spot. His curiosity got the best of him, so he asked the man  Why did you throw the big one back?”  Man’s reply, “Well son, I only have a 12-inch frying pan!”  We are like the fisherman! We have a 12-inch frying pan mentality. We are already decided that Christ’s demands are too hard and that he really doesn’t expect us to be able to put family 2nd to God.  He really doesn’t expect us to take up our cross for others. He really doesn’t expect us to give up all for Him.  God simply expects us to do our best and that’s be okay. |
| 13 | Yet – This is not true! Our faith in Christ cannot, must not, and will not be subordinated if we want to be one of Christ’s followers.  Woman vacationing in Florida where she discovered a valuable piece of artwork being sold. She sent a telegram to her husband describing the work and telling him of the price. Her husband wired back, and she immediately bought it. Taking it home, she proudly showed it to her husband. He went ballistic! I told you not to buy it!! The women protested, “It’s right here in the telegram – read it yourself, “No price too high.” He said it should have read, “No! - price too high” |
| 14 | Good News is that God always gives us enough – the power of the Holy Spirit – to live under such high demands. Rick Joyner stated -“There is More Power in a single Christian than in All the armies on the Face of the Earth”  The high cost/price of following Christ is not too high because we can depend on the Holy Spirit to enable us to follow Christ.  What cost is keeping you from really following Christ and being a true disciple?   * Is it family? * Is it possessions? * Is it pride? * Is it your need to control your life? |
| 15 | Life with Christ is what bring depth and meaning and saving grace to our lives.  “When we have the Holy Spirit we have all that is needed to be all that God desires us to be!”  Consider the high cost!  Then with the Holy Spirit, set your sights on meeting that cost – for life with Christ is the ultimate!! |