

Count the Cost  
Matthew 8:18-22; 16:25-28  
The Laurel Center  
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**Main Idea:** Following Jesus requires we surrender everything of value to us.

**Introduction**

Our society runs on rugged individualism and expects for us to look out for ourselves. We are taught that greed is good, ambition is King and to pull ourselves up by your bootstraps. We applaud the individual and getting our way. Are he rose are those who have ignored wisdom and on what they wanted their way. But Jesus calls us to completely different system of living. He calls us to surrender and sacrifice. Jesus calls us to follow him and lay down our own lives and desires. This is a hard teaching for Americans. We do not do this well. Even when we sacrifice and surrender we tend to hold back at least one thing. Let's take a look at Jesus' teaching on the cost of following him completely.

**Matthew 8:18–22**

**18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. **19** And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." **20** And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." **21** Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." **22** And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

- I.** Jesus followers sacrifice everything to follow him (vv. 18 – 22).
  - A Jesus doesn't provide earthly comforts now.
  - B Jesus requires we make him our priority.

**Matthew 16:24–28**

**24** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? **27** For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. **28** Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

- II.** Jesus followers surrender their lives to Jesus (vv. 25 – 28).
  - A They carry their cross and lose their lives.
  - B Sacrificing their lives now gains eternal life.

**III.**

**IV. Conclusion**

**V.** When we look at Jesus' call to follow him we find that it is not so easy to just join the club. Becoming a follower of Jesus is not about jointly called what about jointly Jesus in his suffering and glory. We like to hear about the glory part but we hate to hear about surrendering and giving up everything to follow him. But this is the challenge that Jesus levels at each of us. Are we willing to surrender all to serve Jesus or do we just want to hear about the good parts of having his presence in our lives? Indeed Jesus' message is that if we wish to follow him we must surrender everything and give everything to him before we can truly serve him! Now we have a decision to make. Do we surrender all or do we look for another master?