

Counting the Cost Discussion Questions

Acts 19:21-41

Rev. Brian Bill

November 13-14, 2021

1. How do you picture how things were for the early church? What were the difficulties they faced? What were the accomplishments made?
2. What cost did they pay to follow Christ?
3. Read Matthew 16:24-25. What do we learn from this verse?
4. How does following Christ cost us our plans? What plans has God changed in your life?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4. What did Paul say we should do with our money, so it is there to give? How does this apply to us today?
6. Who has God worked through in your life to accomplish His purposes? How has God worked through your problems to accomplish His purposes? Did it feel like God was working when you were facing the problems? What helped you to get through them?
7. How has being a Christian affected your popularity with others? What problems have risen when people learned you were a Christian? How has this affected your faith?
8. How do we react when something affects our pocketbook? How does our pocketbook show us what our faith in God is really like? Is there anything else that reveals the strength of our faith or lack of it more than our pocketbook? How can problems here help to grow our faith and dependance on God?
9. How do we react when something affects our beliefs? What avenues do people use to slowly change our beliefs or make things more acceptable than they once were?
10. What is persecution? Do we face persecution in the United States? Explain your answer.
11. Do you stand up for God when you think you will be laughed at, get in legal trouble, etc. or do you stay quiet? Share a time when this has happened in your life. Do you have any regrets on how you handled the situation? What regrets do you have? If you spoke up, was the consequences as bad as you thought? Why or why not? How does Satan use fear to stop the spread of the gospel?
12. Do you have the ability to build bridges with ordinary people and with people of higher positions? What qualities does someone need to have to do this? Why is this important?
13. Read Hebrews 13:3. Are you fulfilling this verse? How or why not? If not, what can you do to start? If you do, can you give ideas to the others on what works for you?
14. Take time to pray for the persecuted. Pray for their unshakeable faith. Pray for Christian community. Pray they will have access to God's Word. Pray for peace and contentment. Pray for Bibles to be read or listened to leading to new life in Christ. Pray for Christians to share the gospel even when it may cost them their lives. Thank God for those who have come to Christ through this.
15. Take time to pray for your group to be strong, bold, and courageous in sharing the gospel.