

## I. The Pointed Statement From Jesus (25-27)

**A. He was not enamored with superficial acceptance (25) - “Now great crowds accompanied Him, and He turned and said to them...”**

**B. He was clear about His expectations (26) - “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”**

- **Mother & Father - our first love**
- **Wife - our nearest love**
- **Children - our fondest love**
- **Our own lives - our most stubborn love**

**C. He was unwilling to be misunderstood (27) - “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”**

The question is often asked, is Jesus referring to what is required to be saved? Or can I be saved but not bear my own cross? The very question reflects that our focus is on us and what we can get instead of being on Jesus and what He desires. Do we not want what He wants?

## II. The Powerful Illustrations From Jesus (28-32)

**A. An illustration from the world of construction (28-30) - “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? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’”**

This explains why Jesus was telling them, at the point of their decision, that it is an all-or-nothing paradigm when considering commitment to Him.

**B. An illustration from the world of conflict (31-32) - “Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.”**

We may give ourselves in surrender to the world, or we may bow in submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

We are not allowed to believe that we can do both of these things with our lives.

## III. The Undivided Commitment To Jesus (33)

**“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple.”**

Empty religion occurs when Self is protected and Jesus is merely acknowledged.

True spiritual life and growth occurs when Self is intentionally renounced and Jesus is enthroned as supreme Lord over our lives.