

## To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

## Lesson 21 –The Cost and Blessings of Obedience (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question. Explain that many times the money we spend on material things is not worth what it cost us. A relationship with God, on the other hand, is better than everything else.

### Study Notes:

#### **Luke 14:25-35**

*Verse 26* – What does it mean when Jesus tells His disciples that they should hate their family and even their own life? It means that we should love Him above all.

*Verses 27-30* – What example of “counting the cost” does Jesus use in these verses? A Builder.

*Verses 31-32* - What example of “counting the cost” does Jesus use in these verses? A king about to go to war.

Note that Jesus was not satisfied simply to have “the crowds” following Him. He was interested in making disciples. Occasionally He taught a different way to his inner circle (like in the Parable of the Sower - Luke 8:1-15); He did not hide the truth simply to gain more followers.

#### **2 Corinthians 11:23-33**

Some of the examples of the costs that Paul paid were: hard work, prison, floggings, stonings, shipwrecks, insomnia, hunger, thirst and stress.

*Summary:* Obedience to Christ has a cost for you and for those around you.

#### **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**

Some examples of the blessings that God promised are: children, good harvests, a productive herd, victory over your enemies, material possessions, success and prosperity.

It would be good to observe that these are blessings for the corporate obedience of a nation toward God. These blessings also extend to the individual, but we should be careful not to trade God “for any price.” Blessings are gifts from God to be received with gratitude, not demanded with greed.

*Summary:* God blesses those who are willing to serve Him.

Application: Help students identify areas of growth in their spiritual gifts. Explain that blessing come from paying the price of obedience as an incentive to work on these areas of growth.

## Lesson 21 – The Cost and Blessings of Obedience

### **Calculating the Cost**

What is the most expensive thing you have ever bought? Was it worth what you paid for it?

The way we experience a personal relationship with God is to allow Him to do His work through us. It requires obedience to achieve this, and there is a cost associated with obedience. Salvation is a free gift in the sense that there is nothing we can do to earn it. However, the decision to follow Christ has a cost, as well as a blessing.

### **The Cost**

Luke 14:25-35 is a passage in which Jesus speaks about the cost of discipleship. In this passage, Jesus speaks to the crowd that is “traveling with Him.” Read the verses and answer the questions below.

*Verse 26* – What does it mean when Jesus tells His disciples that they should hate their family and even their own life?

*Verses 27-30* – What example of “counting the cost” does Jesus use in these verses?

*Verses 31-32* - What example of “counting the cost” does Jesus use in these verses?

Paul is an example of someone who had to pay a heavy price for following Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 11:23-33 and write below some of those costs.

### **The Blessings**

The greatest blessing of obedience is simply being in a right relationship with the Lord. We do what is right because it is the right thing to do. Besides that, however, the Bible says that God blesses those who follow the truth. In Deuteronomy 28, God lists some of the blessings that He would give to the Israelites as long as they honored Him as a nation. Read verses 1-14 and list at least of these blessings below.

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Sometimes the cost of following Jesus is a blessing in itself. The cost of sacrificing recreation or work time to attend church becomes the blessing of fellowship with other Christians and weekly renewal through worship. The cost of sacrificing sleep time for regular prayer and Bible study becomes the blessing of a deeper relationship with God. In the space below, list some costs that you believe Jesus is asking you to pay right now in your life.

Now, list some of the potential blessings that could come from paying these costs – that is to say, obeying the direction of the Lord in your life right now.

Ask God to help you follow through in these areas. Pray together with other students to encourage each other as they move close to obedience to God.

Scripture to memorize:

If you love me, you will obey my commandments.

John 14: 15