

# Luke 14:25 to End. Christ Declares to the Multitude That His Disciples Must Encounter Great Difficulties.

by Favell Lee Mortimer

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*Jesus warns the multitude that following him will require great sacrifices and difficulties, but promises that those who persevere will be rewarded with eternal life.*

**Scripture:** Luke 14:25-31, Romans 8:37, Hebrews 10:38

**Topics:** "Following Jesus", "Christian Persecution"

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## Description

Favell Lee Mortimer preaches about the challenges and sacrifices required to follow Jesus, emphasizing the need to be prepared to endure persecution and hardships for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus warns that those who choose to follow Him must be willing to forsake all, even their closest relationships, and be fully committed to Him alone. Through parables, Jesus illustrates the importance of counting the cost before embarking on the Christian journey and the consequences of turning back after starting. Despite the trials and tribulations, Christ never deceives His followers but provides a true depiction of the difficulties they may face in serving Him.

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## Transcript

As the Lord Jesus knew all hearts, he could perfectly adapt his discourse to the state of mind of his hearers. We have lately listened to his conversation at a Pharisee's table, and heard his alarming warnings to those who despised his Gospel. Now we behold him surrounded by a different class of hearers.

The multitudes did not openly despise the Savior, they admired him, and many of them wished to become his disciples; but they were not prepared to encounter difficulties, or to make sacrifices for his sake. Therefore the Savior, turning towards them, set before their eyes the great trials which his disciples must expect to suffer. Parents and kindred would persecute them, and rulers would condemn them to death. How ought they to act when placed in these distressing circumstances? None can suppose that Jesus disapproves of natural affection; the meaning of his declaration is, "Those who would follow me must not yield to the persuasions of their dearest friends, or to the threatenings of the most cruel tyrants, but must be ready to forsake all, and to cleave to me alone." In our days, converted Jews and converted Brahmins have resisted the tenderest entreaties of affectionate mothers and devoted wives, who would have turned

them from the faith. And even in our Christian land, there are many instances of children who have endured much unkindness from their own parents, rather than comply with the vain customs of the world.

The Lord Jesus related two short parables to show the folly of setting out in the Christian course, without being prepared to surmount difficulties.

If a man would build a tower, he must first consider whether he has money sufficient to complete the building; and if a captain would meet an enemy, he must first consider whether he has soldiers enough to resist him. It would be better not to begin the tower, than to leave it unfinished--and not to undertake the war, than to suffer a defeat.

It would also be better not to profess to follow Christ, than to turn back after having set out. It would be better--if we can talk of better in such a case. For he who does not set out at SOME TIME OR OTHER in the Christian course, must endure EVERLASTING misery. It will be a poor consolation for him to think that his case would have been still worse, had he turned back after having known the way of righteousness.

Christ never discouraged a sincere soul from following him. But he has given a true description of the nature of his service, so that none can say in the end, "My Lord deceived me, and represented his service to be easier than I have found it." A poor Madagascar woman, who had undergone great persecutions, was once asked whether she was surprised when afflictions overtook her. She replied, "No; from the first we knew it was written, that through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom of God; and when our troubles came, we said, 'This is what we expected.'" This poor woman was once shut up, for five months, in an iron case that prevented her moving a single limb; yet, having counted the cost, she proved "more than conqueror through Him who loved her." \* See "Madagascar and its Martyrs," a book for the young.

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