

Should I Join the Believers?



Luke 14:25-33

Many did not dare join the Church in Jerusalem (Acts 5:13). Why would someone want to join such a group of believers if he were not very serious about following the Lord? Today people are invited to join a church without personal cost or sacrificial involvement. It's like joining a gym or going to a vacation resort. People do so because they are told about all of the benefits they will receive. So it is with Christianity. Often nothing is said about the cost of discipleship. What if people were really told the truth?

If you become a true follower of Christ, the following will be true of you: You will be hated by the world (John 15:18-19; 1 John 3:13). You will be persecuted even as Jesus was (John 15:20). You will no longer partake in your former worldly activities (1 Pet. 4:3-4). Your former friends will speak evil of you (1 Pet. 4:4). You will renounce your possessions and understand that all you have belongs to Christ (Luke 14:33; 1 Cor. 6:19-20). You will love Christ more than you love any other person close to you (Matt. 10:37). You will deny yourself and say "No" to all your personal desires, plans and ambitions (Matt. 16:24). You will go through very difficult trials and your faith will be severely tested (1 Pet. 4:12). You will be ready, if need be, to die for your faith (Acts 21:13; Matt. 10:28).

Would you want to join under such conditions? Here was Paul's answer: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:7-8).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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