

THE COST

We will find God when we search for Him with our whole hearts. However, often when we come to church we haven't always been seeking after Him with our whole heart.

1. What are the two ways that we affect what we receive in church?

1. Connect your heart with faith & expectation-Don't just check the box

Luke 8:43-48 NASB: "And a woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak, and **immediately** her hemorrhage stopped...And He said to her, "**Daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace.**"

2. Believing in God as a child—preaching the Word **and living it WITH** childlike faith (& going to a church that preaches AND operates that way!)

Matthew 11:25 NASB: "At that time Jesus said, "**I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.**"

There are things God is wanting to show us, but in order to see them we have to purpose ourselves to live with childlike faith!

2. We need to count the cost of following Christ!

Luke 14:27-28 NASB: "**Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (28) "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?**"

3. What does it cost to become a disciple of Jesus?

Luke 14:33-35 NASB: ³³ So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

³⁴ "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, ^[a]let him hear."

John 15:18-20 NASB: ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated you.* ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”

Becoming a true, all in, on fire disciple of Jesus will cost us:

1. All of our possessions
2. Our reputation
3. Our thoughts
4. Our actions

When we count the cost and decide to pay it, we become the salt that shows and helps the world see & experience the fullness of God. THIS IS OUR CALLING! :-)

Luke 4:18-19 NASB: ¹⁸ “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”

We’re not called to *just* preach the gospel: the gospel we preach needs to have empowerment & manifestation to bring freedom!

How wrong would it have been for Jesus to say, “I’m bringing you good news!” if there was nothing to back it up? **Paul said,**

1 Corinthians 2:4 NASB: “⁴ and my ^[a]message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,**”

Galatians 3:8 NASB: ⁸ The Scripture, foreseeing that God ^[a]would justify the ^[b]Gentiles by faith, preached the **gospel** beforehand to Abraham, *saying,* “**ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU.**”

We are called to show the world the fullness of God! *But* that can only happen **if we choose** to count the cost of following Christ, **and purpose in our heart** to serve God, **no matter what!**