

Lesson III.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

April 19, 1914

Luke 14 : 25-35.—Memory Verses, 26, 27.

Golden Text—Whosoever would save his life shall lose it : and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it.—Matthew 16 : 25 (Rev. Ver.).



25 And there went great multitudes with him : and he turned, and said unto them,

26 If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it* ?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him,

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand ?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

34 Salt is good : but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned ?

35 It is neither fit for the land, not yet for the dunghill ; *but* men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One day a great many people were following after Jesus ; the crowd was like a multitude.

Presently Jesus turned toward the many people and said : "It is not always easy to follow in My footsteps. Sometimes the way will be hard. But if you truly wish to follow Me, you will be willing even to leave everything else for My sake. You will choose Me before every one else. You will choose My way even before your own life."

Then Jesus said : "But whoever is not willing to do hard things, when they are right, for My sake, cannot be My true follower. Those who would follow Me must often bear a cross."

Jesus meant by this that His disciples must be willing to endure suffering, if need be, for His sake.

Again He said, "Those who are trying to decide about following in My way must count the cost."

To show what this meant, Jesus bade His hearers think of a man who was about to build a tower. Before he starts the building, he will sit down and count his money to see if he has enough to pay for the work. Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation, he may find himself unable to finish the tower, and then his neighbors will mock and jeer at him. Again Jesus pictured to them a king who wished to go to war with another king. Surely he would sit down and carefully consider whether he had enough men to gain the victory.

But even though being a follower of Jesus is sometimes hard, it is a happy way. Those who choose the way are never sorry. The reward is great, and the gladness that comes is better than all the hardness.

Jesus will not let the cross and the hardness be too heavy for even a little child to bear. When a little follower becomes too tired and