

## Count The Cost

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Luke 14:28-32:** "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 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? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassador, and desireth conditions of peace."

While these verses tell of making a serious commitment to walk with the Lord, consider that the principal is worthwhile in all areas of life. One such should be in the case of someone considering getting married. To often it would appear that this decision is based on emotion alone, with more thought given to planning the wedding, than to

the marriage. There is a very big difference between the two.

Weddings are often elaborate ceremonies with a lot of planning about the guest list, patterns, gift showers, caterers, location, and many other details. While it may have been planned for weeks, it is over in minutes, and then the marriage begins. It is sad to hear of the statistics and to see all of those who are filing for divorce. It is evident that many of these either failed to take the marriage vows seriously, or give little thought to how marriage would be. If a person thinks that it is all romance, flowers, and fun, they are too immature to get married.

Thought needs to be given to how problems, yes, they will come, will be handled. What if one has an accident with crippling injuries? Will the spouse stay, or go? How about financial problems - they are one of the biggest causes of troubles in marriages? Remember the vows say, "For richer, or poorer, for better, or worse." Then there is household chores. Some men work, and the wife has a job too. The problem is that some men think that the household work is just the woman's job. They forget that she works another job as well. Love, real love, would take care of a lot of these problems.

Then, both husband, and wife, need to remember one thing - they are married. Some times one, or both, want to live like they are single. The vows say, "Forsaking all others" which means just that.

**Hebrews 13:4:** "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge". True love means that we love when troubles come, beauty fades, and health declines.

If you are thinking about getting married, ask yourself this. Is this the one you want to grow old with? Does this person have a good character? Will they stand by you in the face of hard times and be faithful till the end? Does the one you love, along with you, walk with God? Do you possess these qualities for the other person? If not, step back and reconsider before you get married.

Today many people think that it is alright to marry, divorce, re-marry, and divorce several times. Others will just live together, and change partners as the mood strikes them. Neither of these ways are acceptable in the eyes of God. His will is for one man and one woman to marry and to stay together till death parts them.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

MY FOURTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE ARE ALMOST AT AN END.

**JACOB'S TOIL**

IN ORDER TO WIN RACHEL AS A WIFE, JACOB HAS HAD TO ACCEPT LEAH AS A WIFE ALSO, AND SERVE LABAN FOR ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS DUE TO LABAN'S TRICKY BARGAINING, NOW...

I WILL ASK LABAN TO LET ME GO!

LET ME GO THAT I MAY TAKE MY WIVES AND MY CHILDREN TO MY OWN COUNTRY!

I PRAY THAT THOU WOULDST STAY WITH ME IN THIS COUNTRY.

BUT IF THOU MUST LEAVE, GO THOU MUST.

WHAT WAGES WILT THOU HAVE FOR THY SERVICE!

THOU KNOWEST HOW WELL THY CATTLE HAVE THRIVED UNDER MY CARE!

LET ME HAVE ALL THE BROWN SPECKLED AND SPOTTED CATTLE WHEN MY SERVICE IS ENDED AND THOU SHALT KEEP THOSE THAT HAVE NO BLEMISH!

AS THOU SAYEST IT, LET IT BE ACCORDING TO THY WORD.

AND JACOB STRAIGHTWAY BEGINS TO SEPARATE THE CATTLE...

Next Week: Laban's return

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