

# Counting the Cost

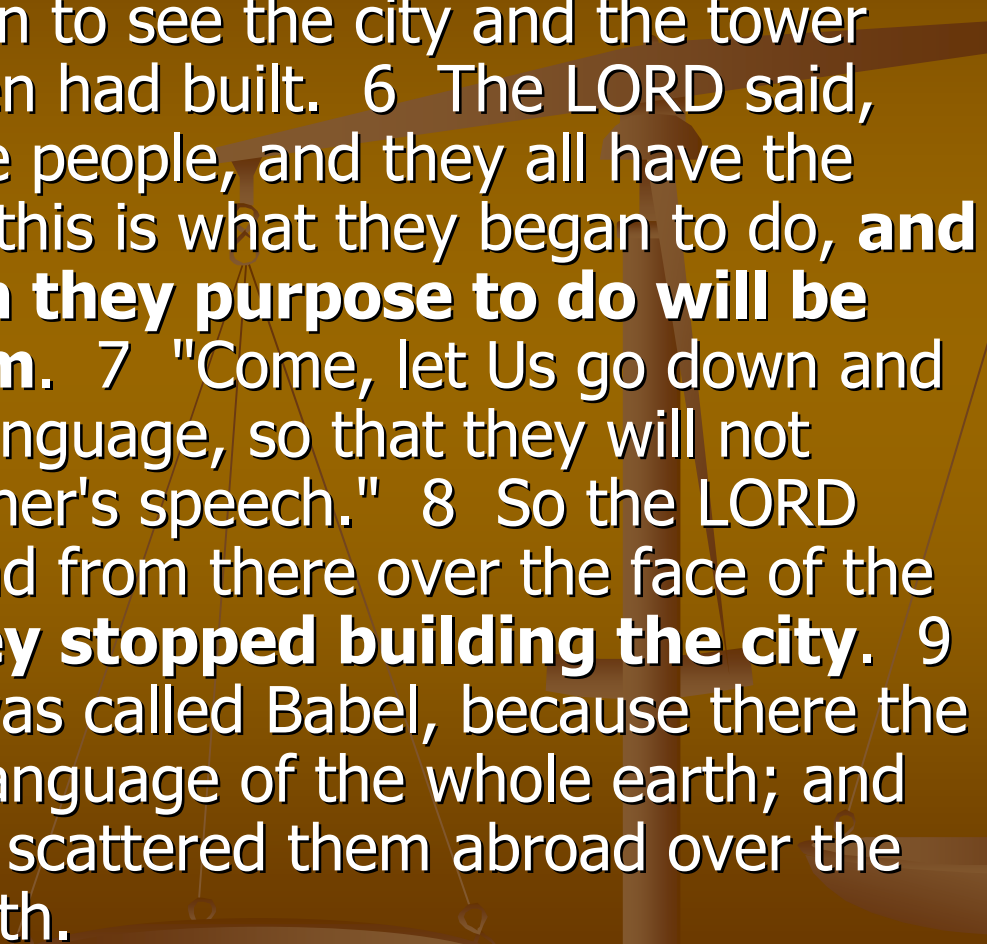


# Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. **4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."**

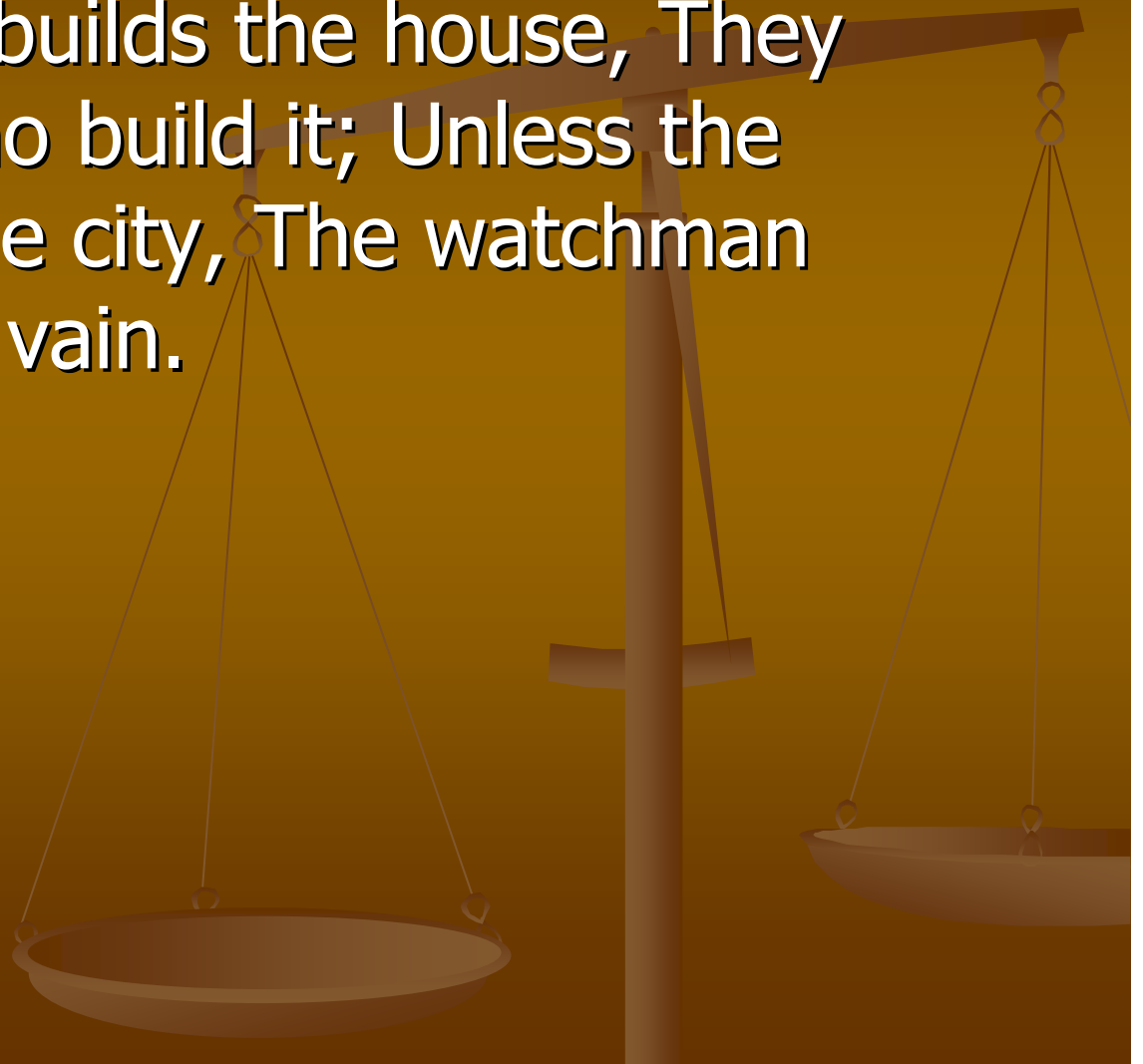
# Genesis 11:1-9

5 The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, **and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them.** 7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and **they stopped building the city.** 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.



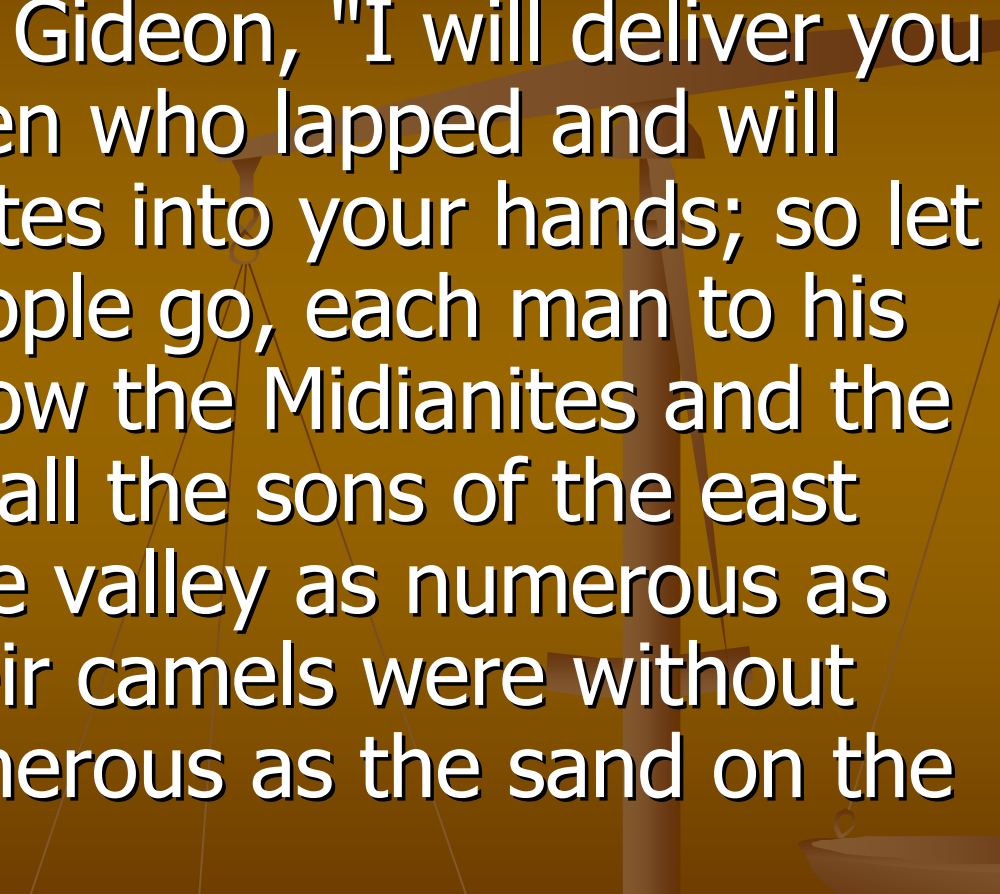
# Psalms 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house, They  
labor in vain who build it; Unless the  
LORD guards the city, The watchman  
keeps awake in vain.



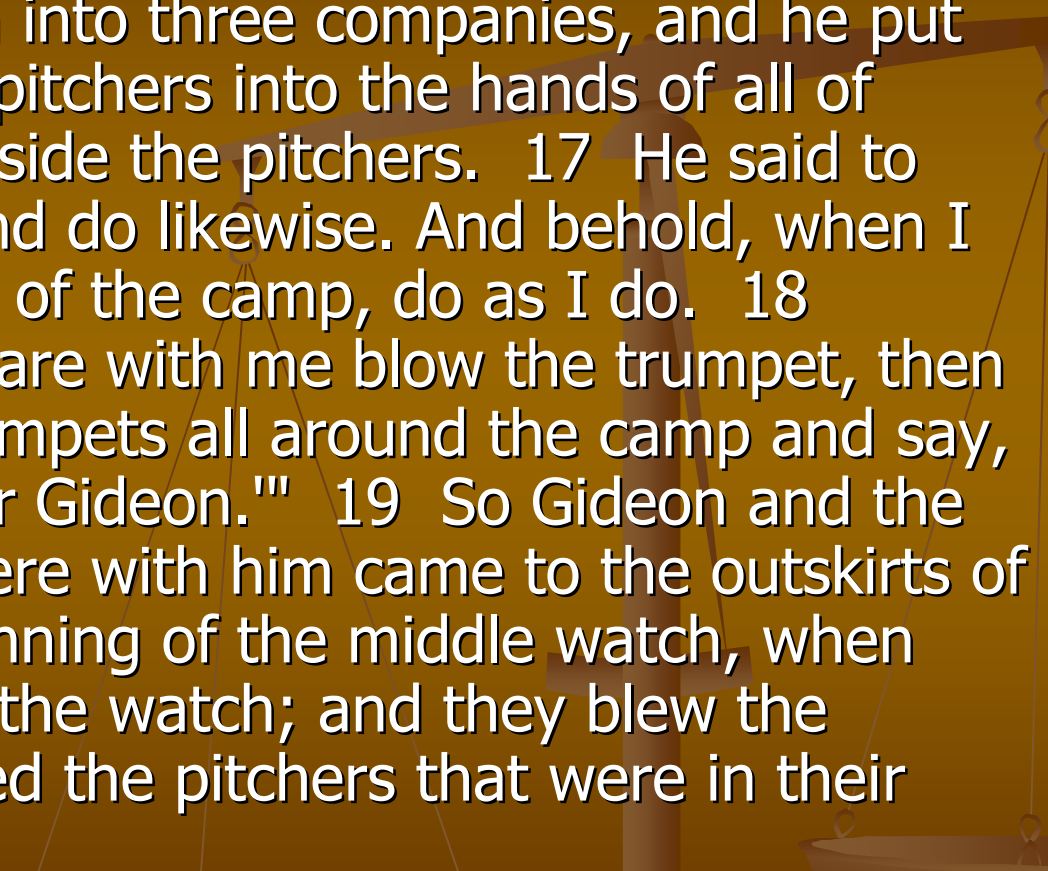
## Judges 7:7,12

The LORD said to Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands; so let all the other people go, each man to his home." ... 12 Now the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the sons of the east were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as numerous as the sand on the seashore.



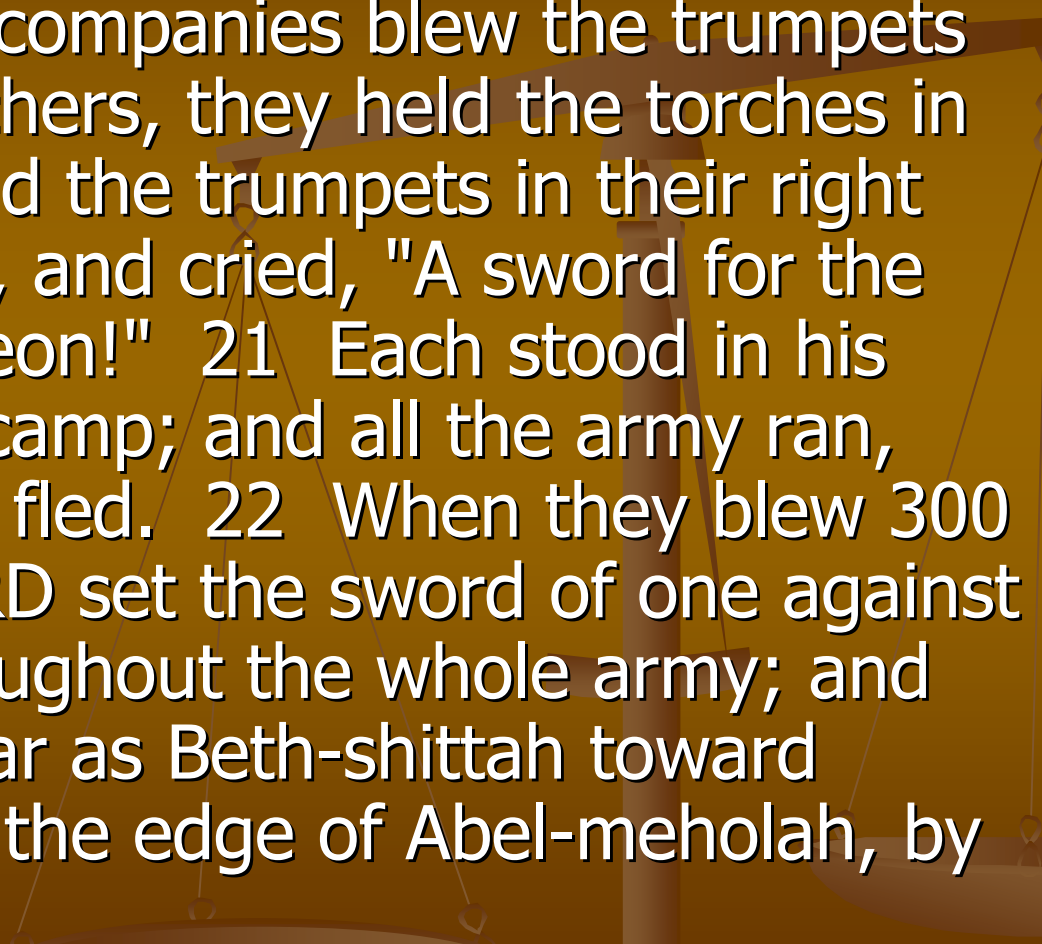
# Judges 7:16-22

He divided the 300 men into three companies, and he put trumpets and empty pitchers into the hands of all of them, with torches inside the pitchers. 17 He said to them, "Look at me and do likewise. And behold, when I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. 18 "When I and all who are with me blow the trumpet, then you also blow the trumpets all around the camp and say, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'" 19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers that were in their hands.



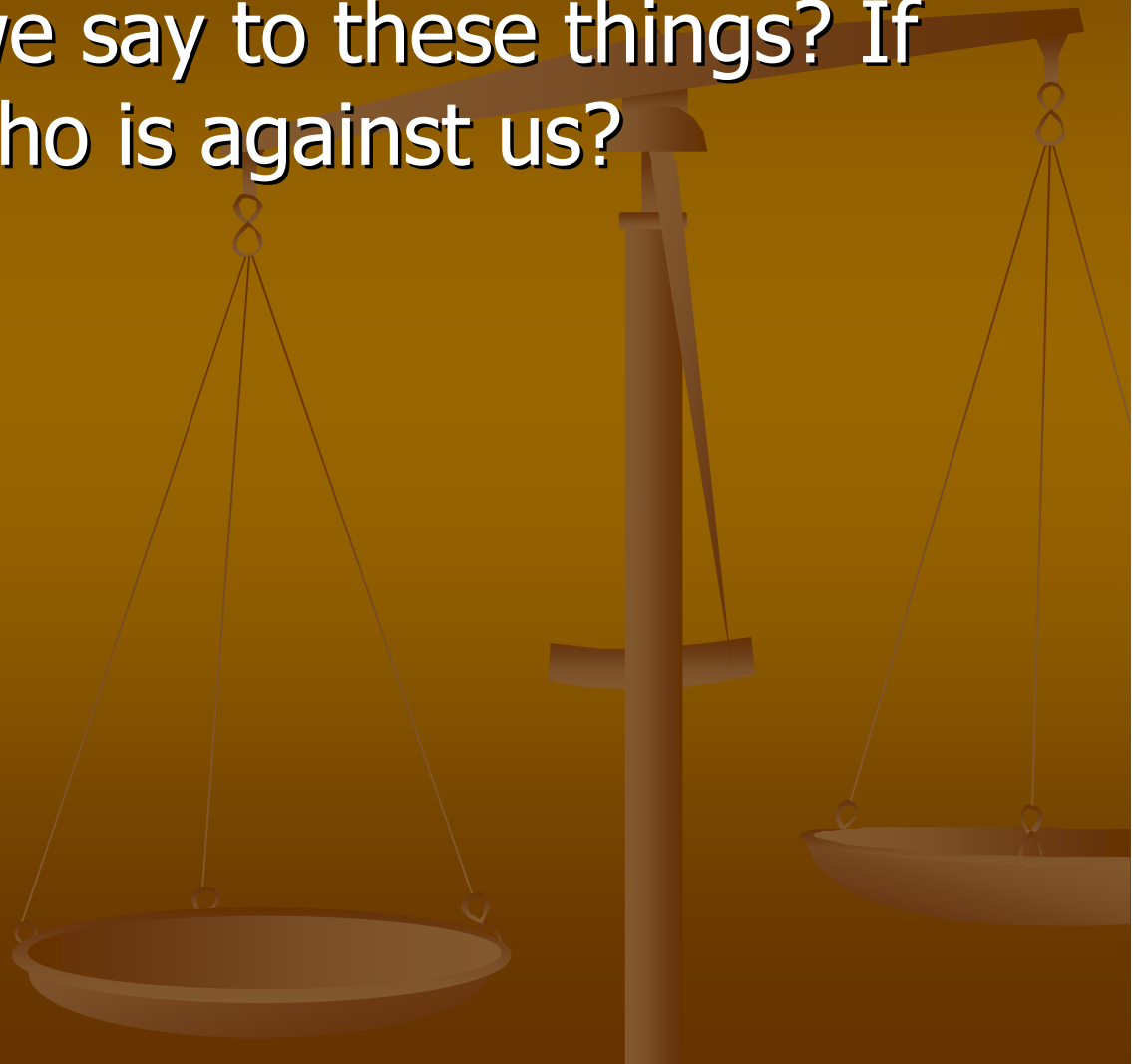
## Judges 7:16-22

20 When the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers, they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing, and cried, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" 21 Each stood in his place around the camp; and all the army ran, crying out as they fled. 22 When they blew 300 trumpets, the LORD set the sword of one against another even throughout the whole army; and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the edge of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.



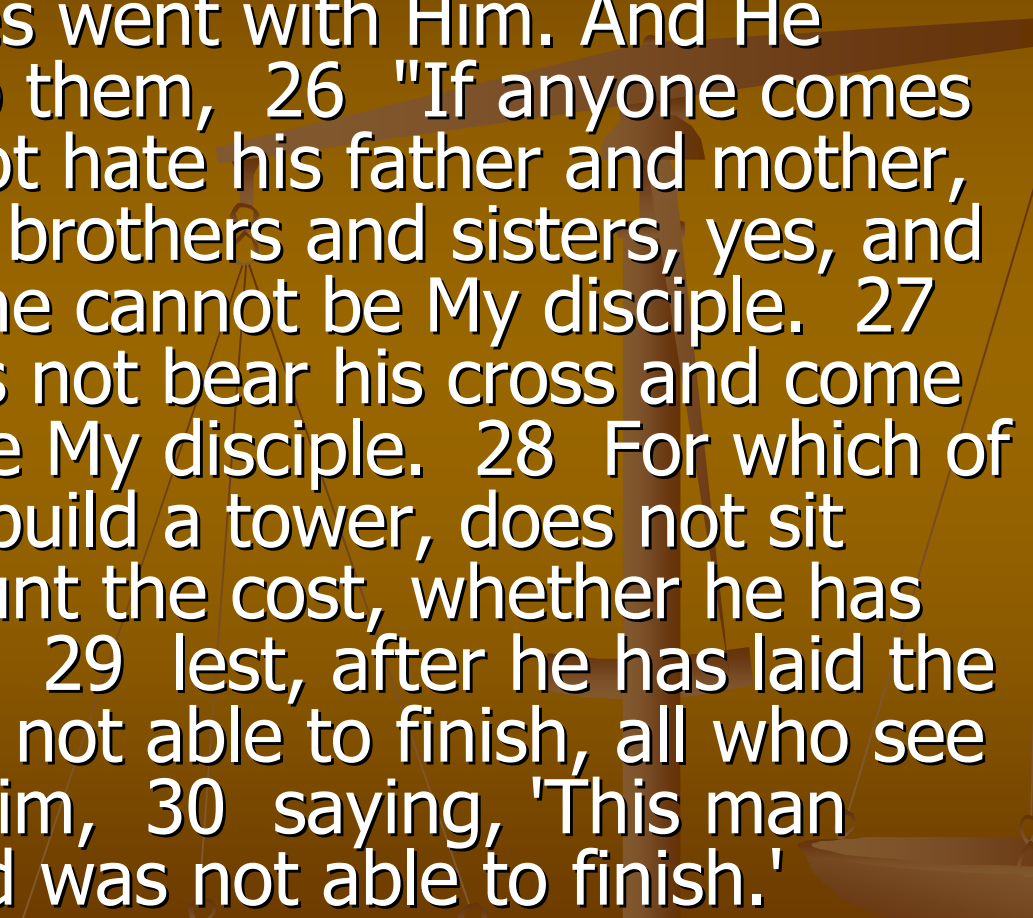
# Romans 8:31

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?



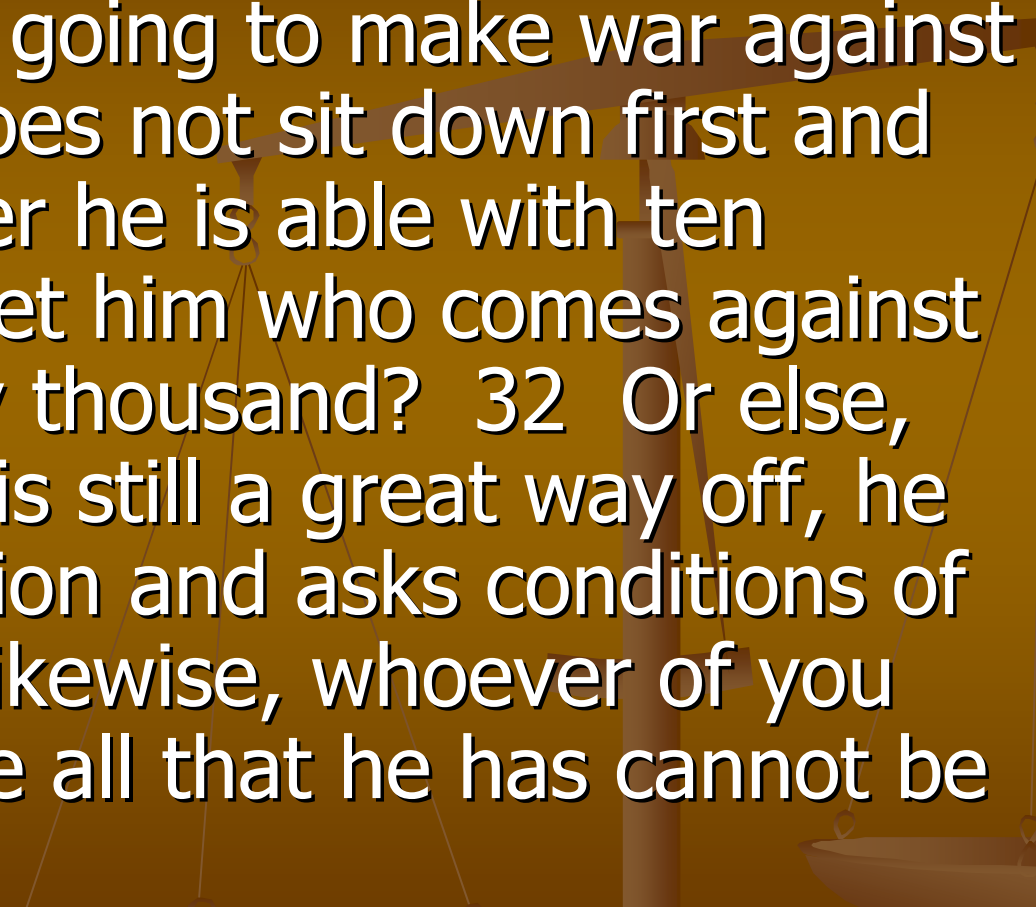
## Luke 14:25-33

Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'



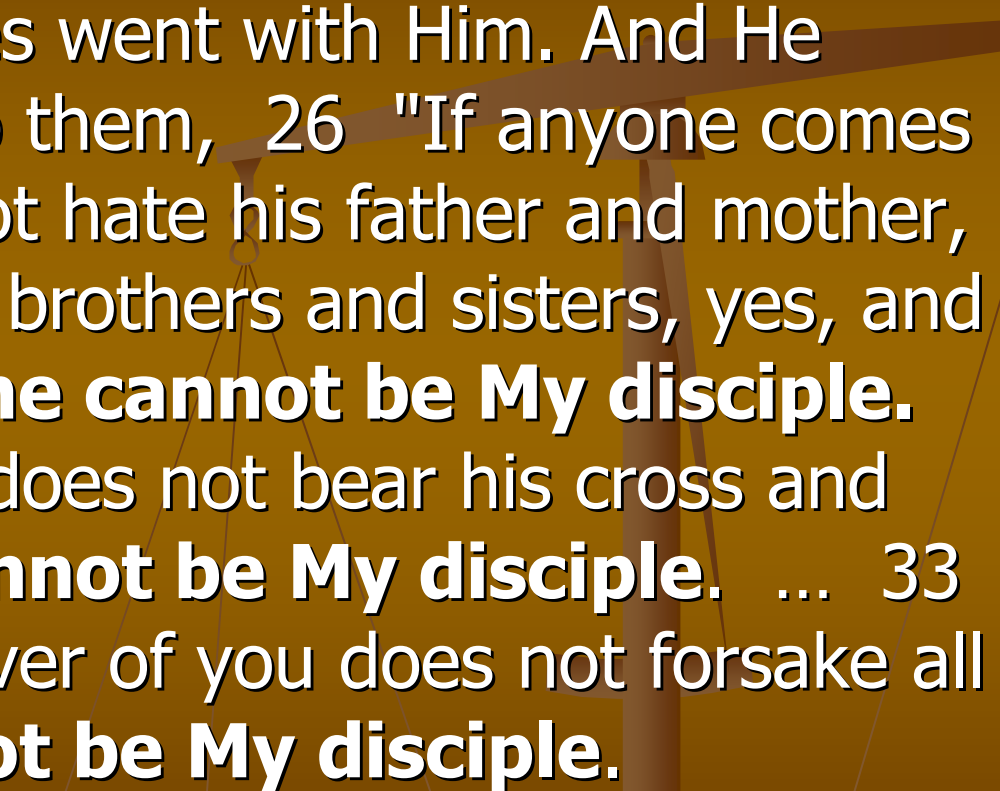
## Luke 14:25-33

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.



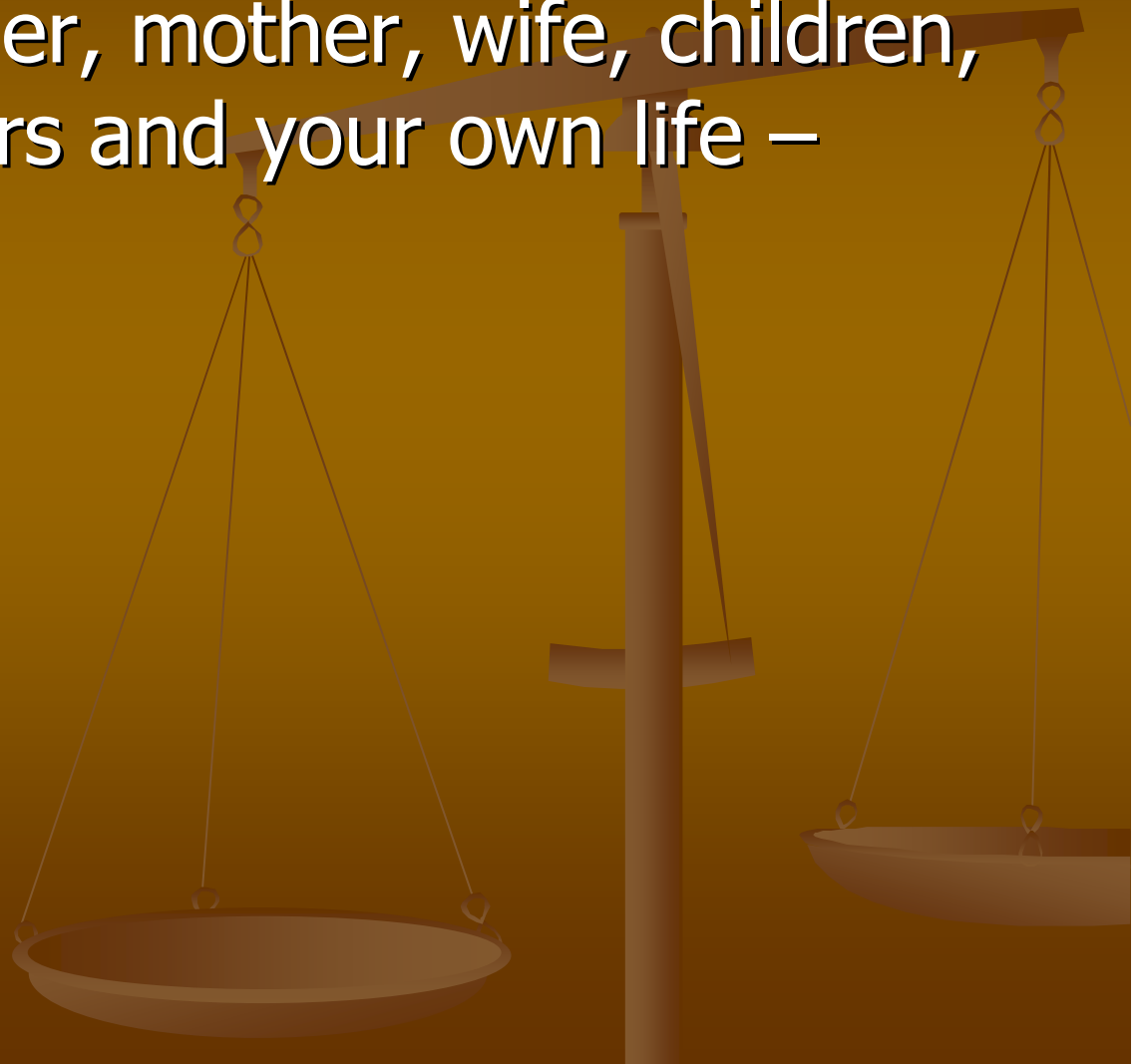
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Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, **he cannot be My disciple.** 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me **cannot be My disciple.** ... 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has **cannot be My disciple.**



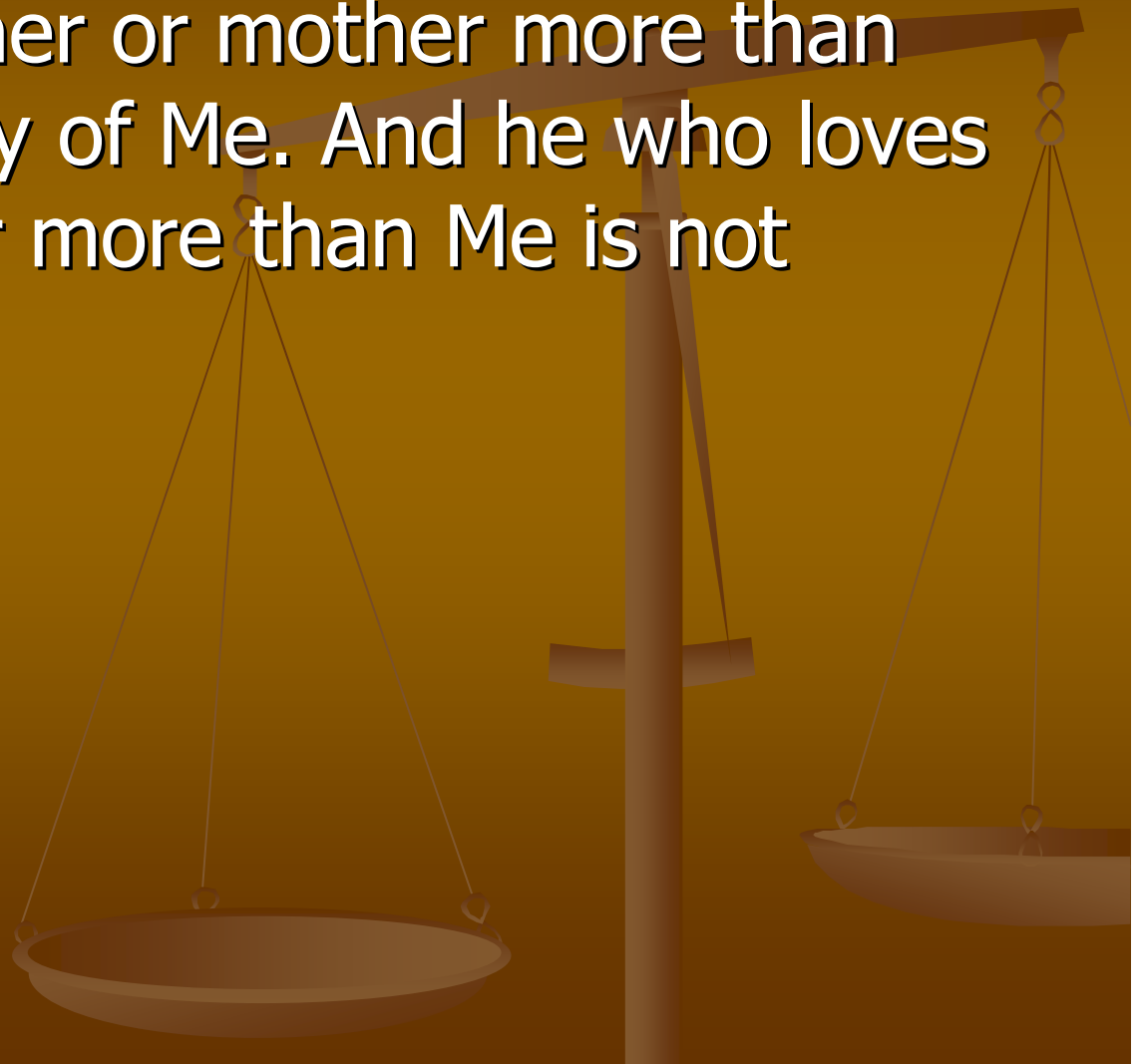
# Counting the Cost: The Cost

- Hate your father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters and your own life –  
Luke 14:26



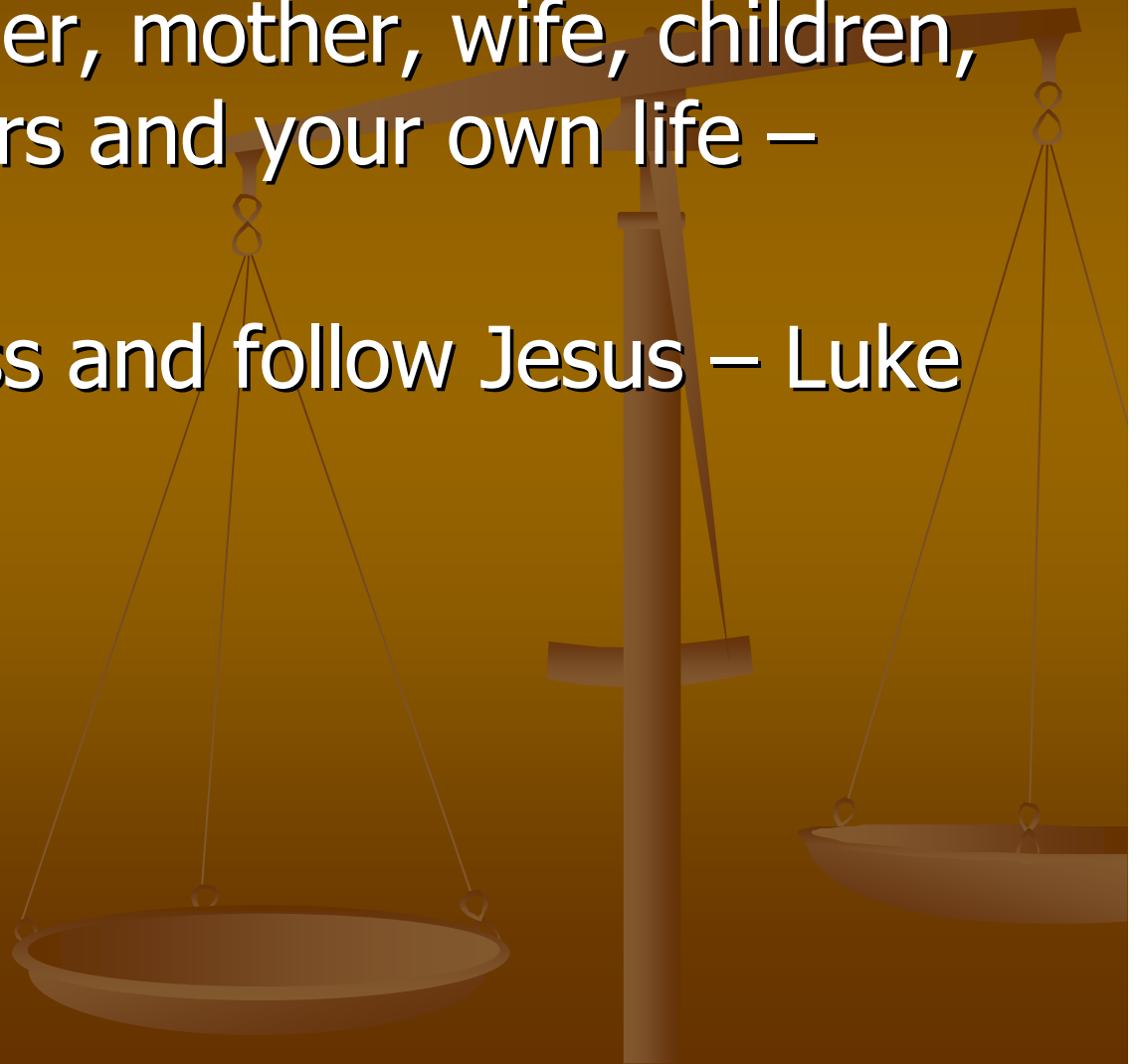
# Matthew 10:37

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.



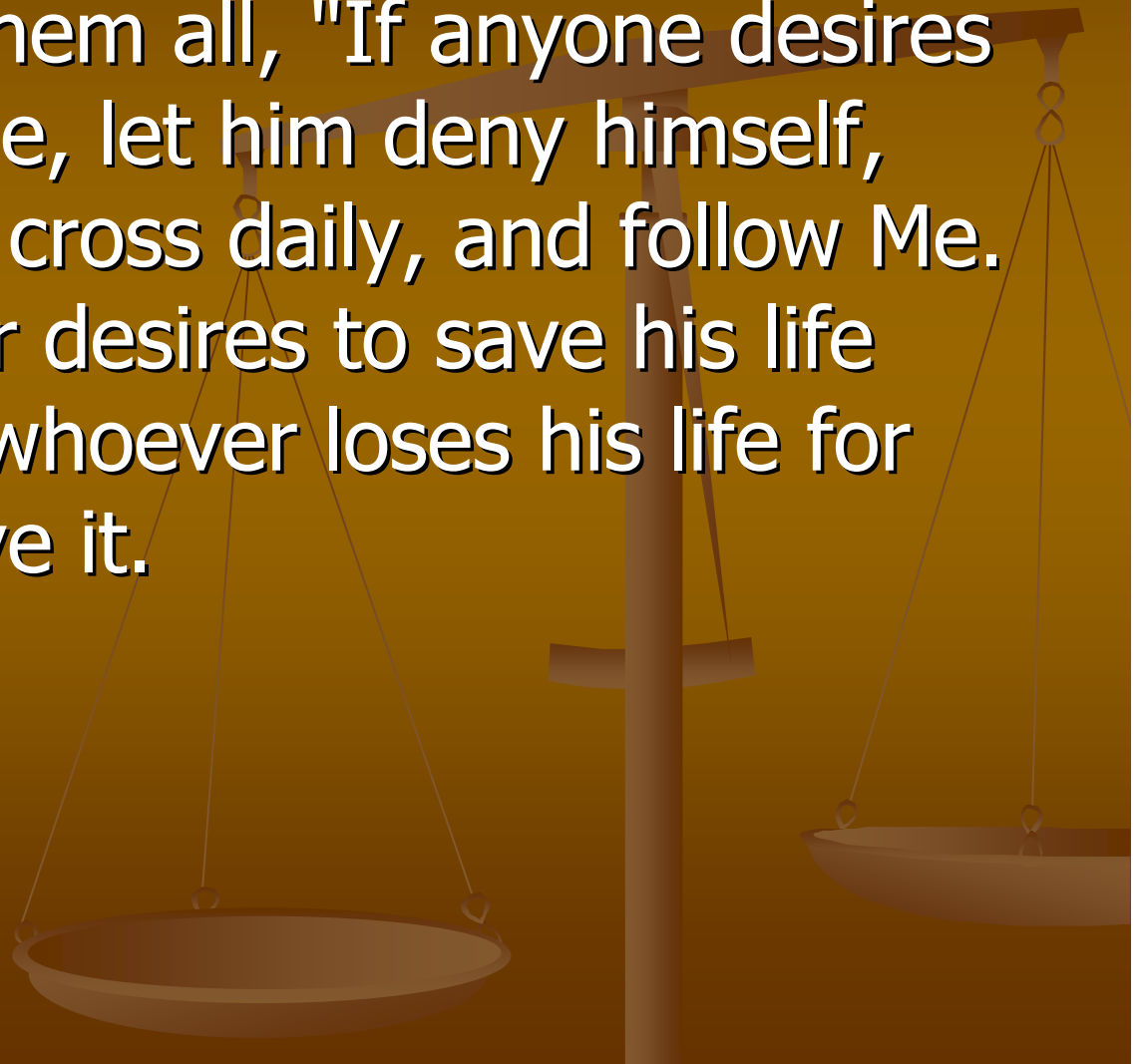
# Counting the Cost: The Cost

- Hate your father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters and your own life – Luke 14:26
- Bear your cross and follow Jesus – Luke 14:27



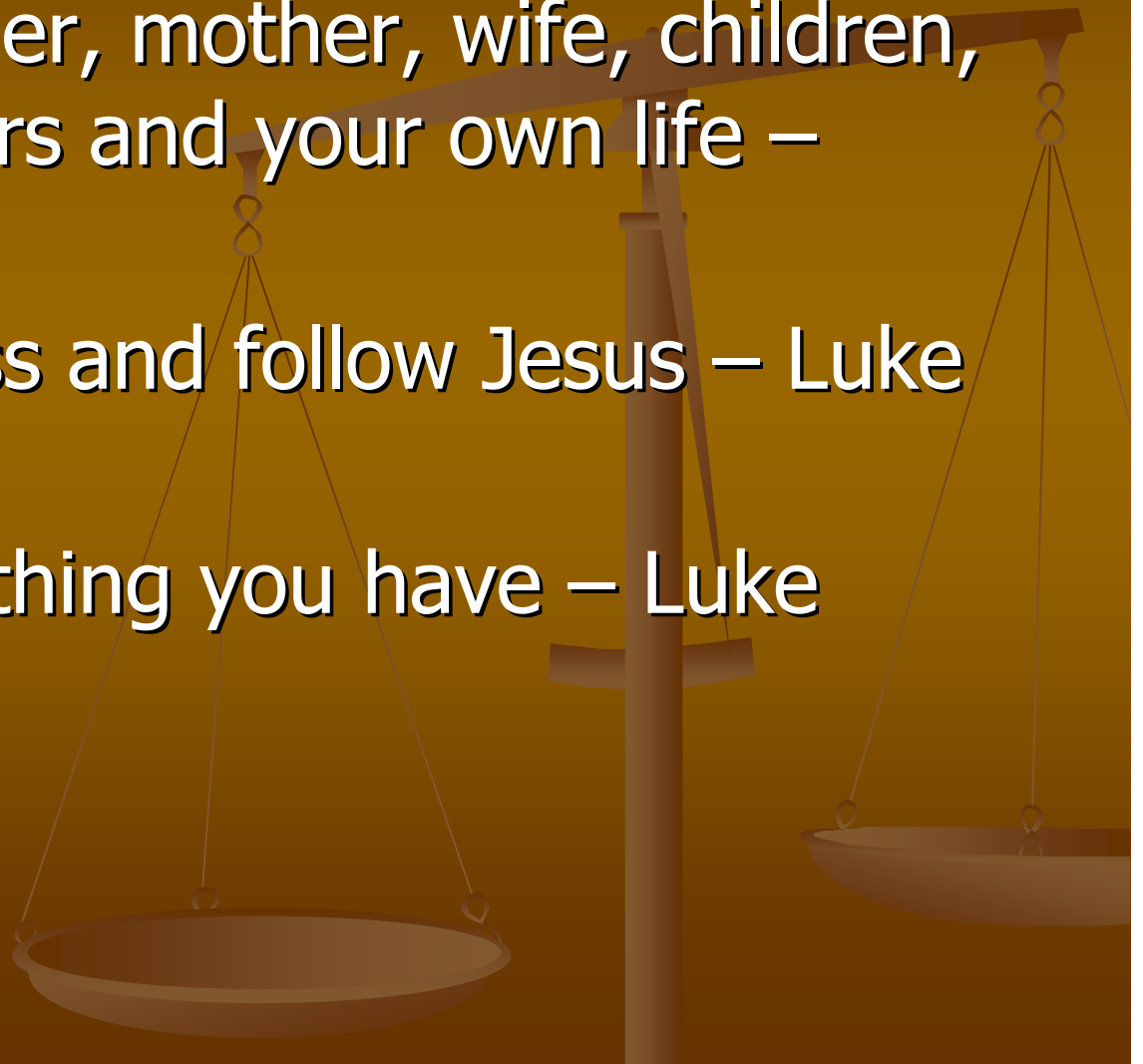
## Luke 9:23-24

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.  
24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.



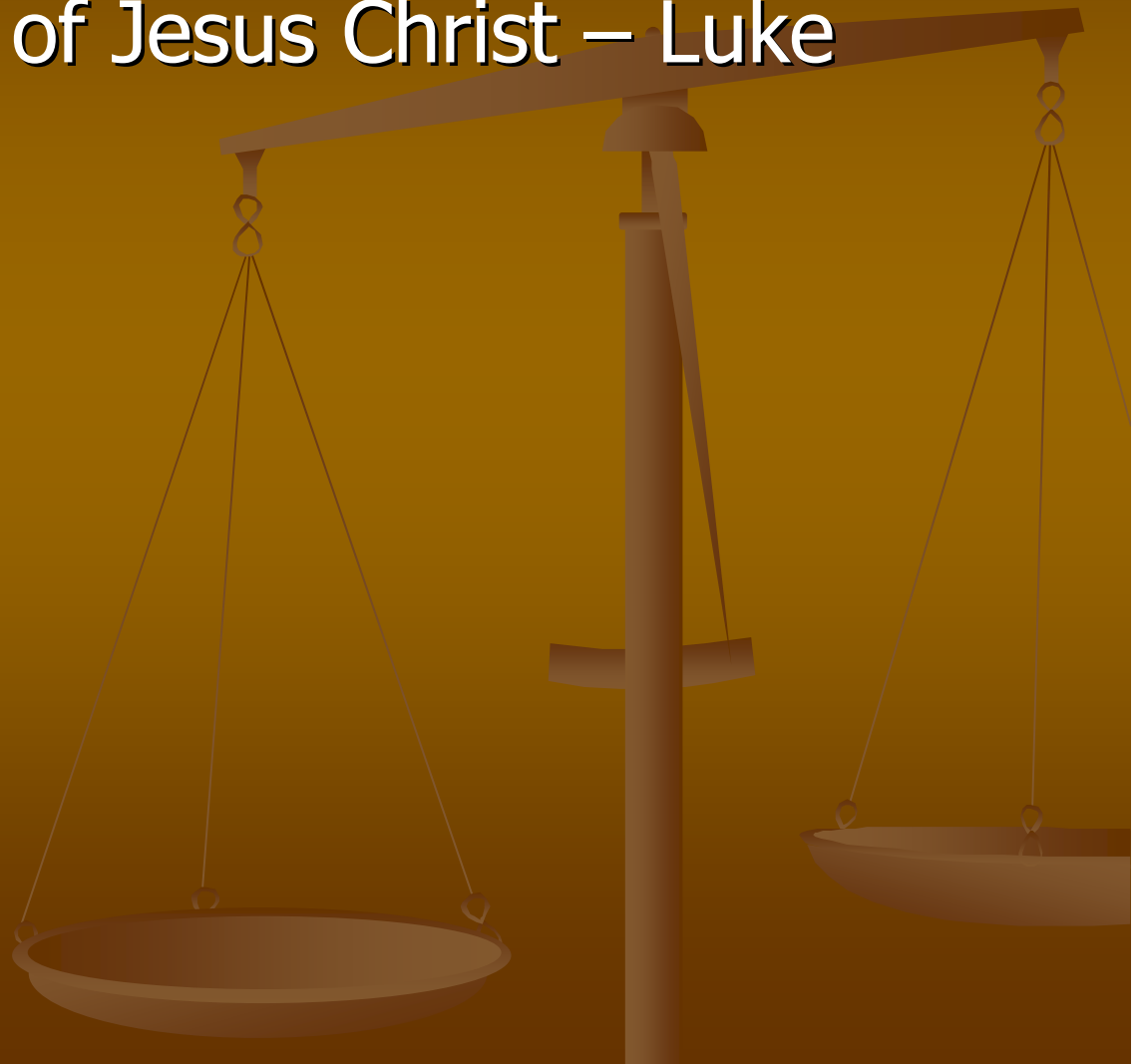
# Counting the Cost: The Cost

- Hate your father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters and your own life – Luke 14:26
- Bear your cross and follow Jesus – Luke 14:27
- Forsake everything you have – Luke 14:33



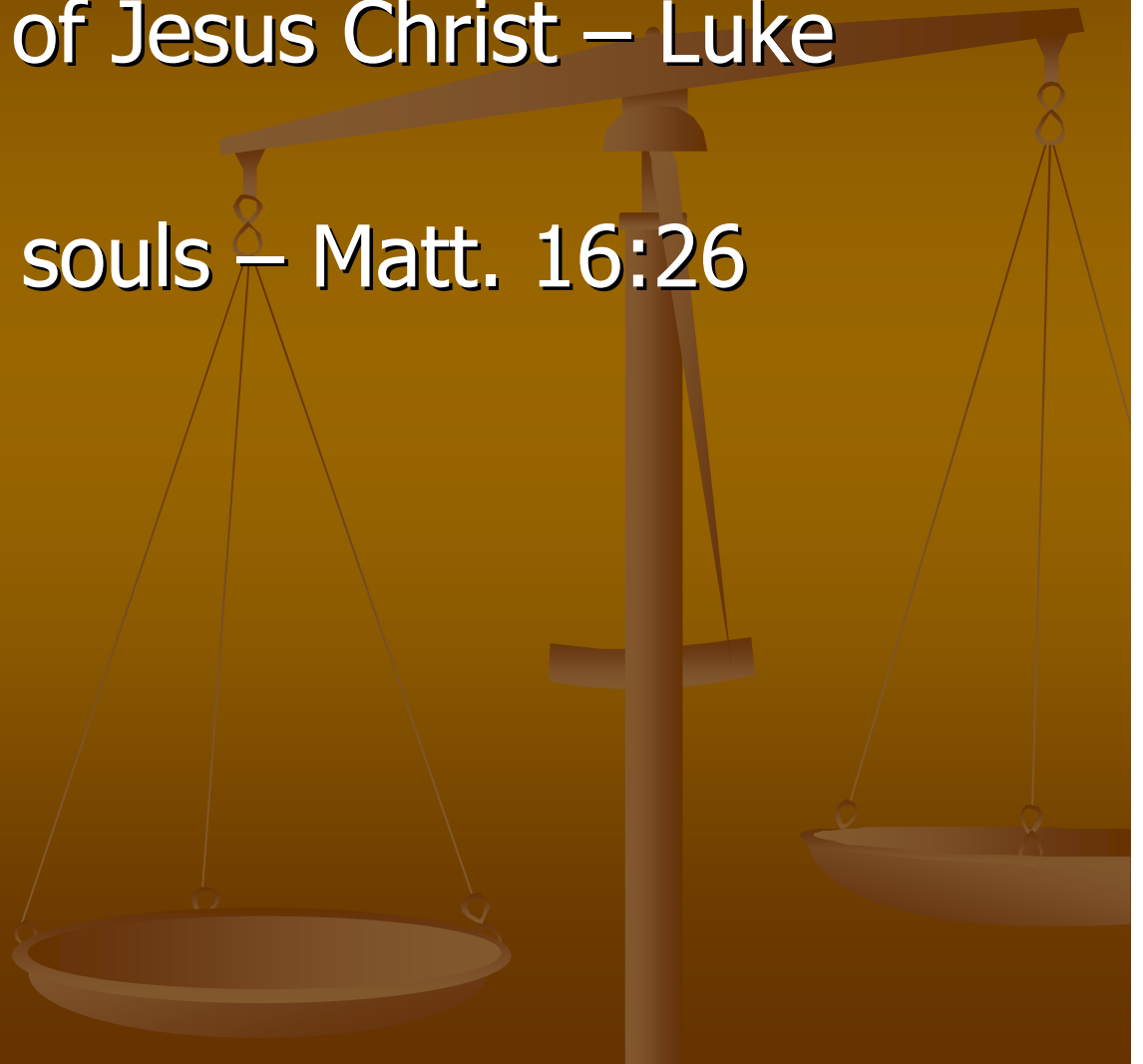
# Counting the Cost: The Benefits

- Being a disciple of Jesus Christ – Luke 14:26-33



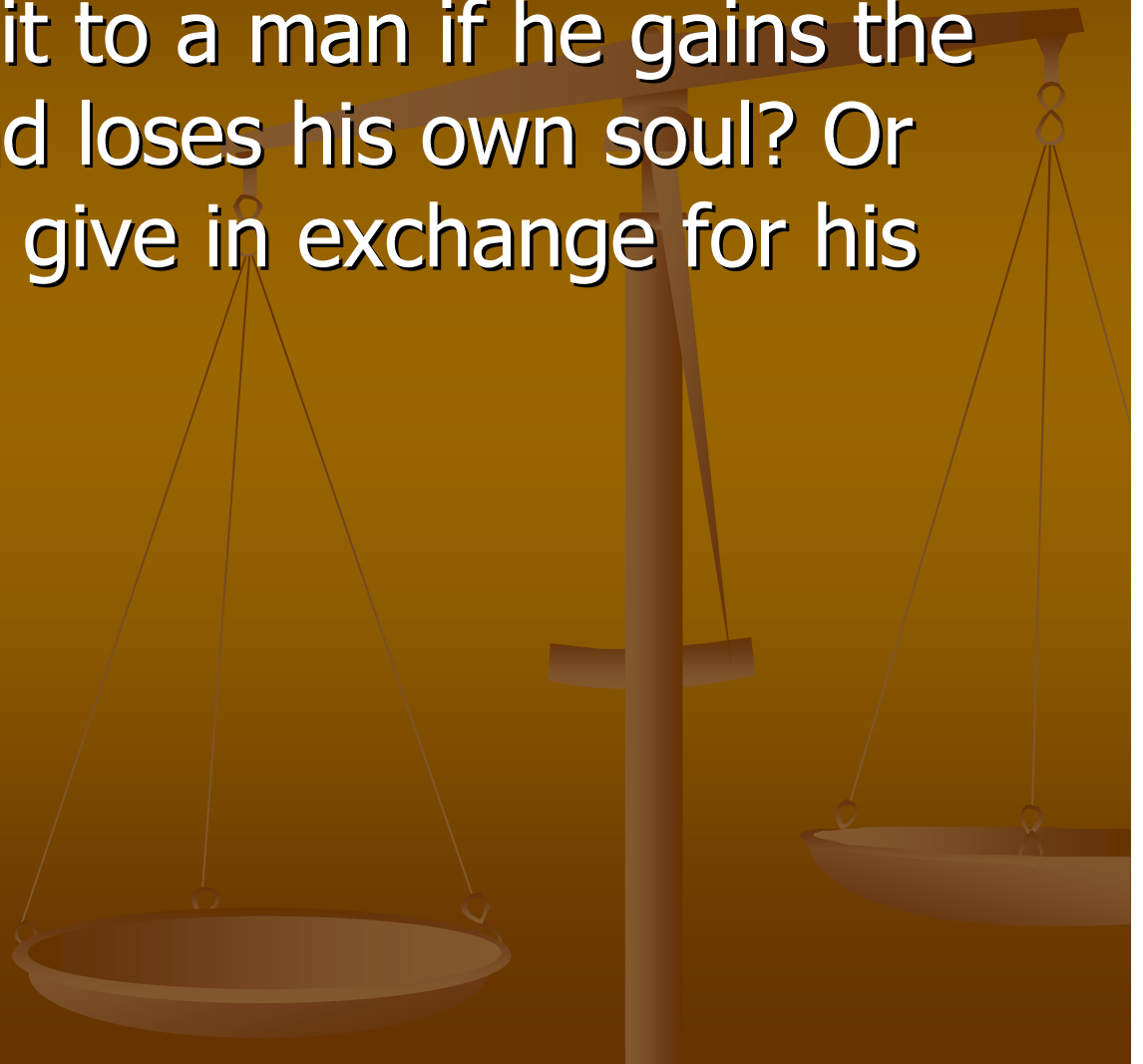
# Counting the Cost: The Benefits

- Being a disciple of Jesus Christ – Luke 14:26-33
- Salvation of our souls – Matt. 16:26



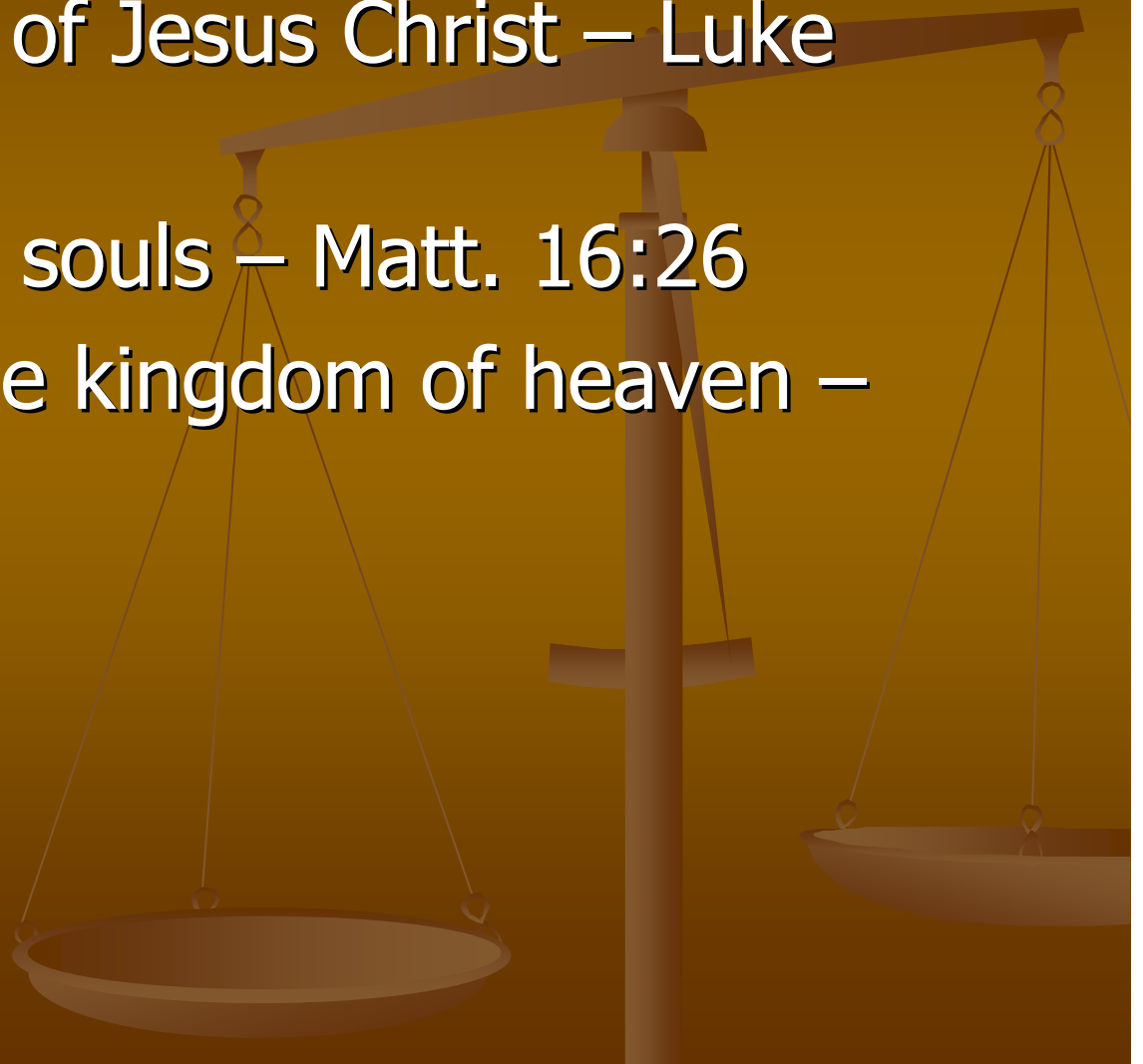
# Matthew 16:26

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?



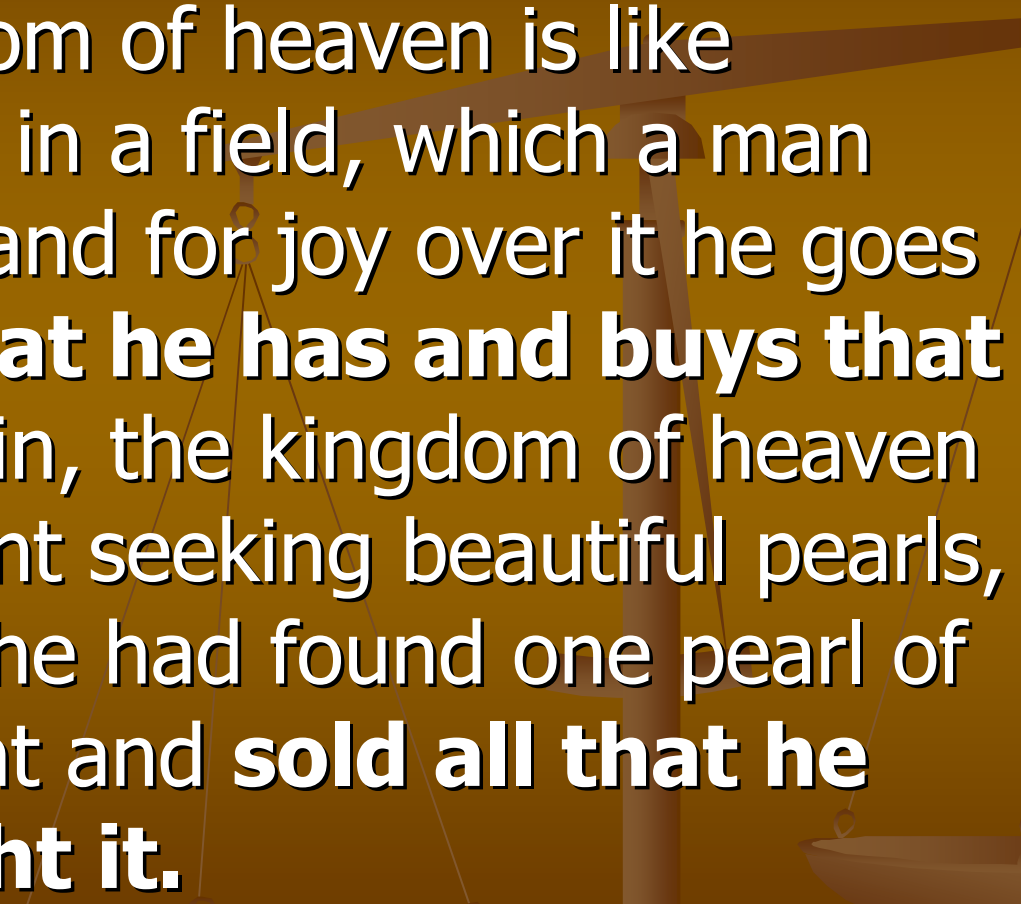
# Counting the Cost: The Benefits

- Being a disciple of Jesus Christ – Luke 14:26-33
- Salvation of our souls – Matt. 16:26
- Citizenship in the kingdom of heaven – Matt. 13:44-46



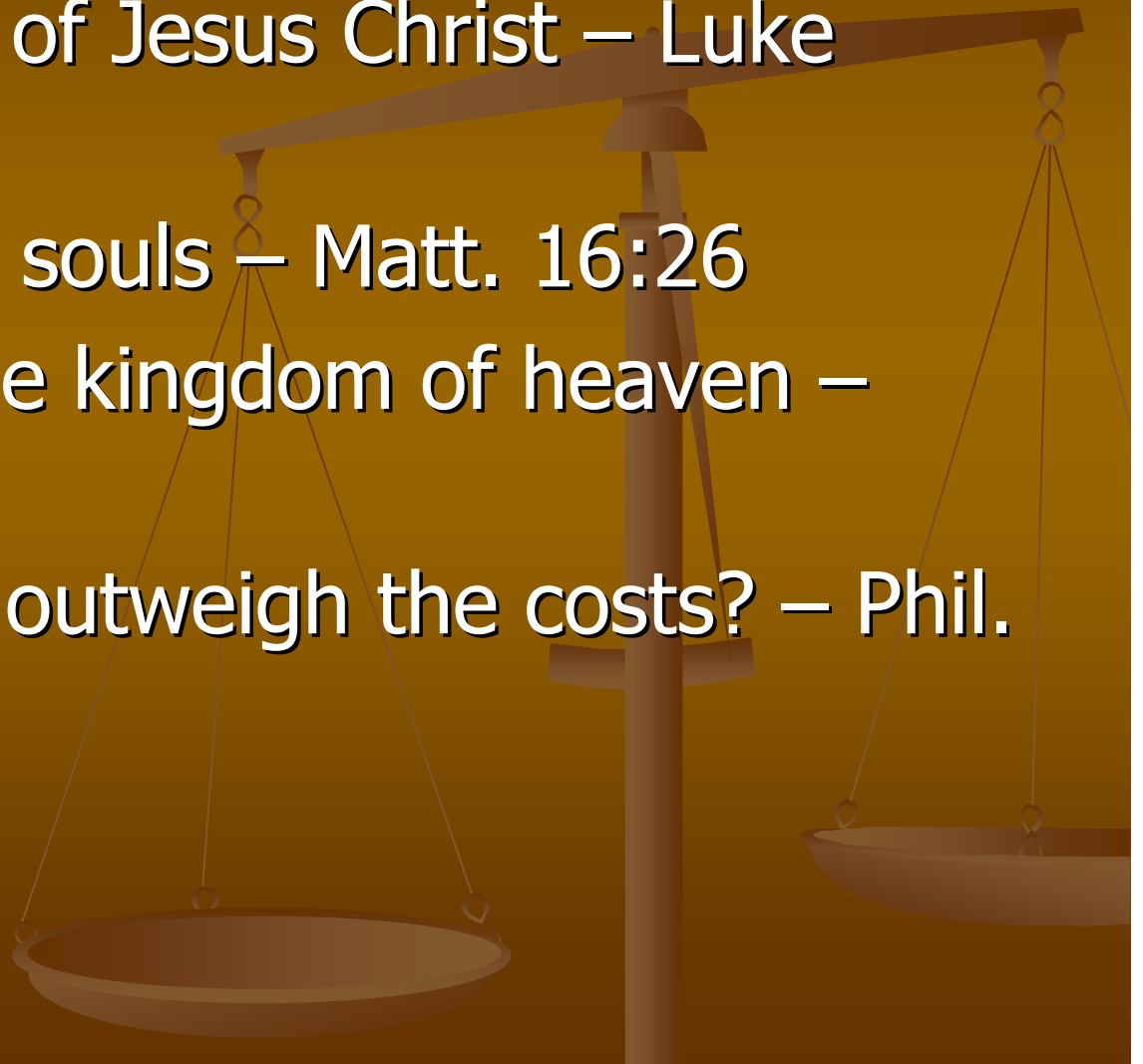
# Matthew 13:44-46

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and **sells all that he has and buys that field.** 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and **sold all that he had and bought it.**



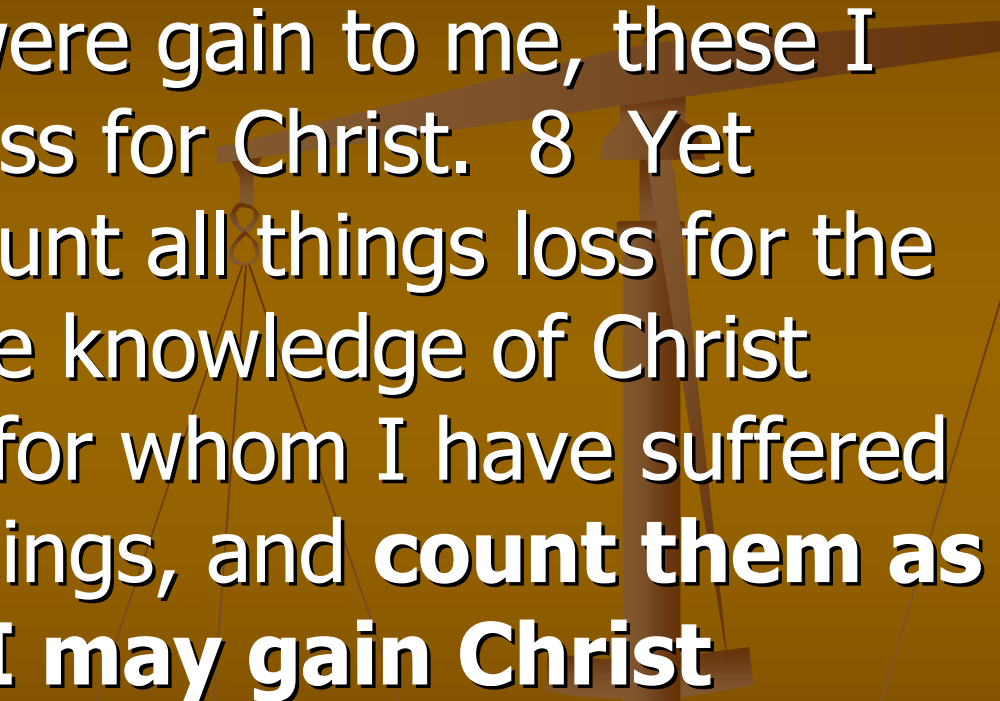
# Counting the Cost: The Benefits

- Being a disciple of Jesus Christ – Luke 14:26-33
- Salvation of our souls – Matt. 16:26
- Citizenship in the kingdom of heaven – Matt. 13:44-46
- Do the benefits outweigh the costs? – Phil. 3:7-8



## Philippians 3:7-8

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ**



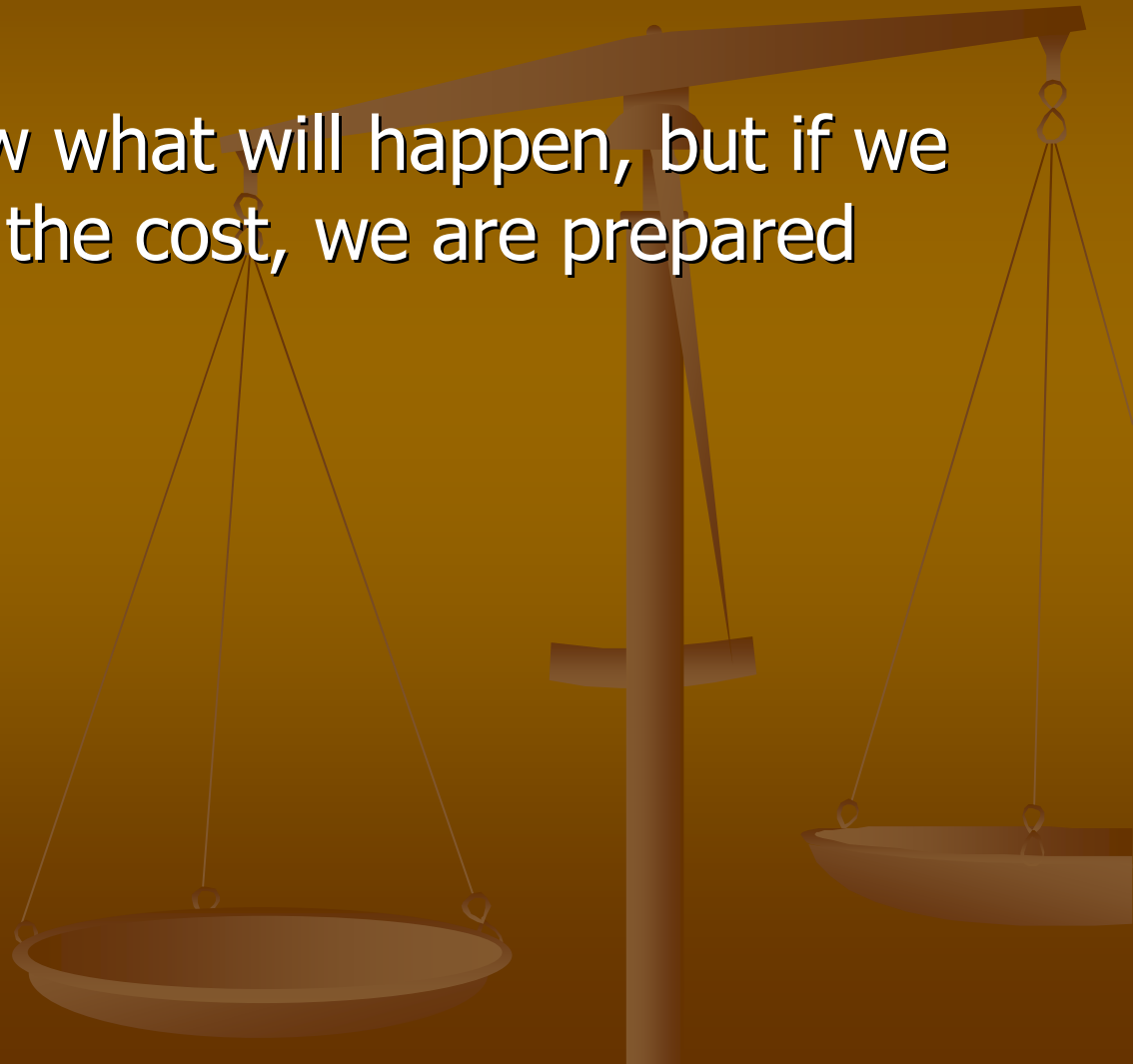
# Counting the Cost

- As a Christian



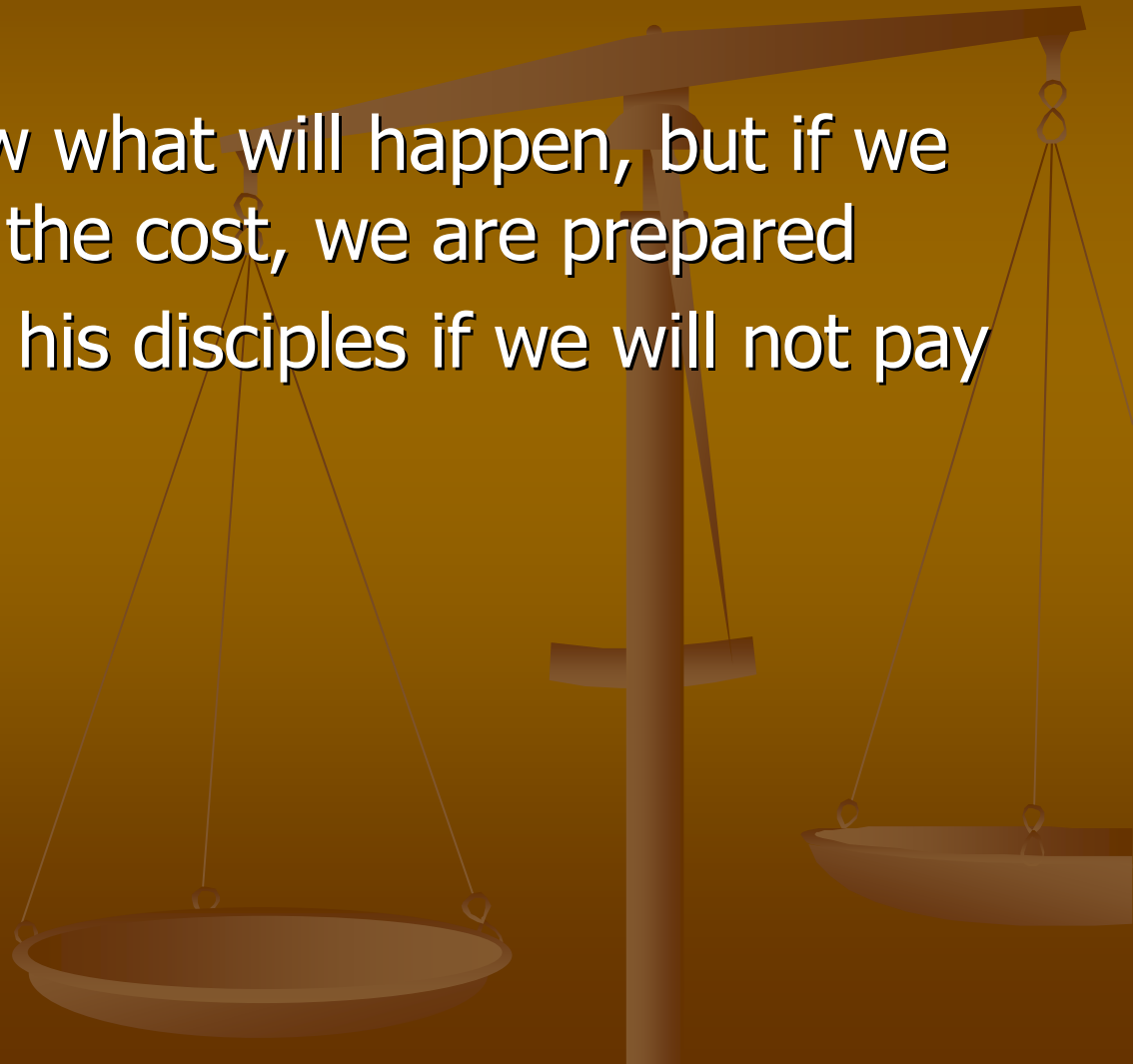
# Counting the Cost

- As a Christian
  - We don't know what will happen, but if we have counted the cost, we are prepared



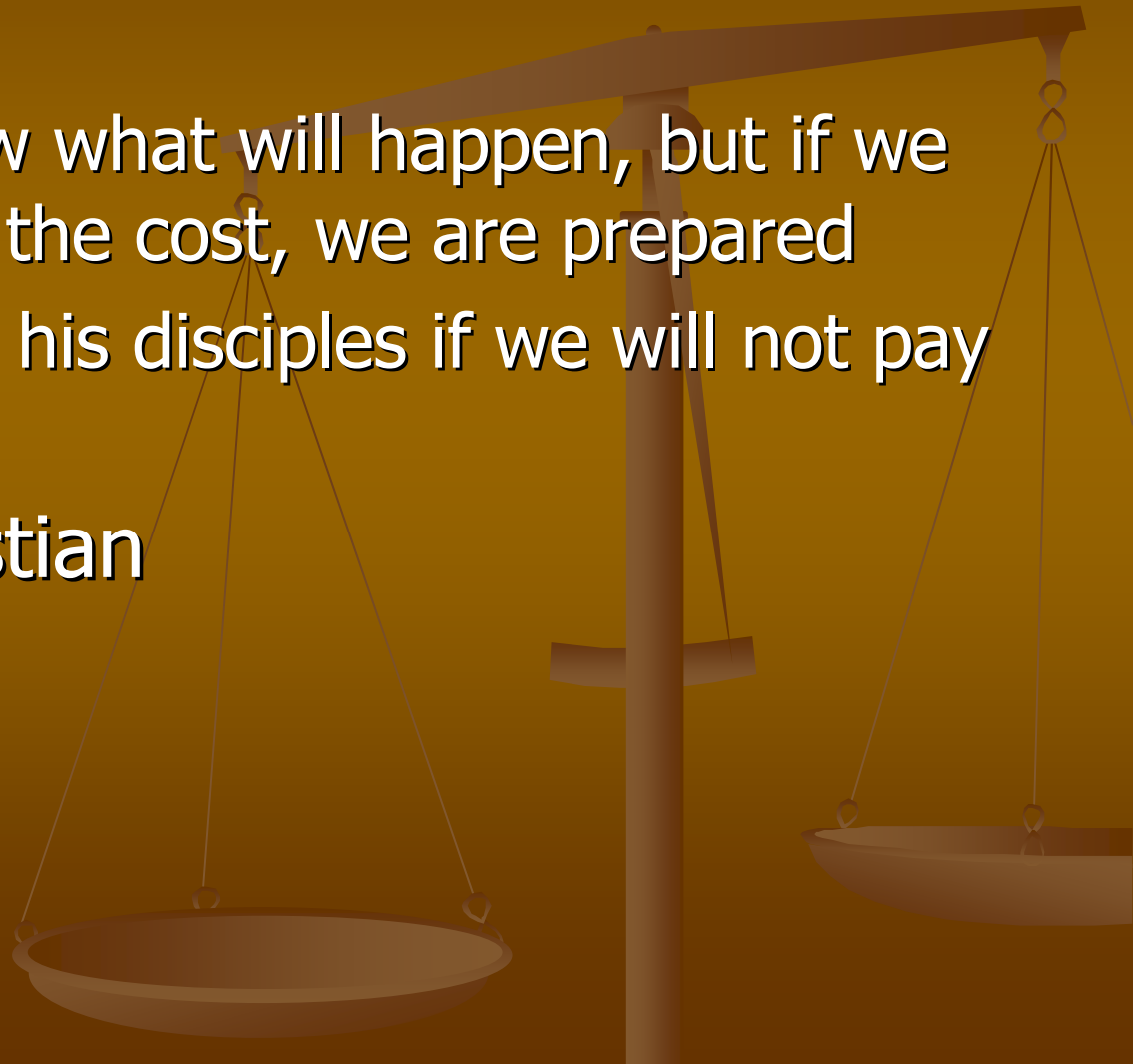
# Counting the Cost

- As a Christian
  - We don't know what will happen, but if we have counted the cost, we are prepared
  - We cannot be his disciples if we will not pay the price



# Counting the Cost

- As a Christian
  - We don't know what will happen, but if we have counted the cost, we are prepared
  - We cannot be his disciples if we will not pay the price
- As a non-Christian



# Counting the Cost



- As a Christian

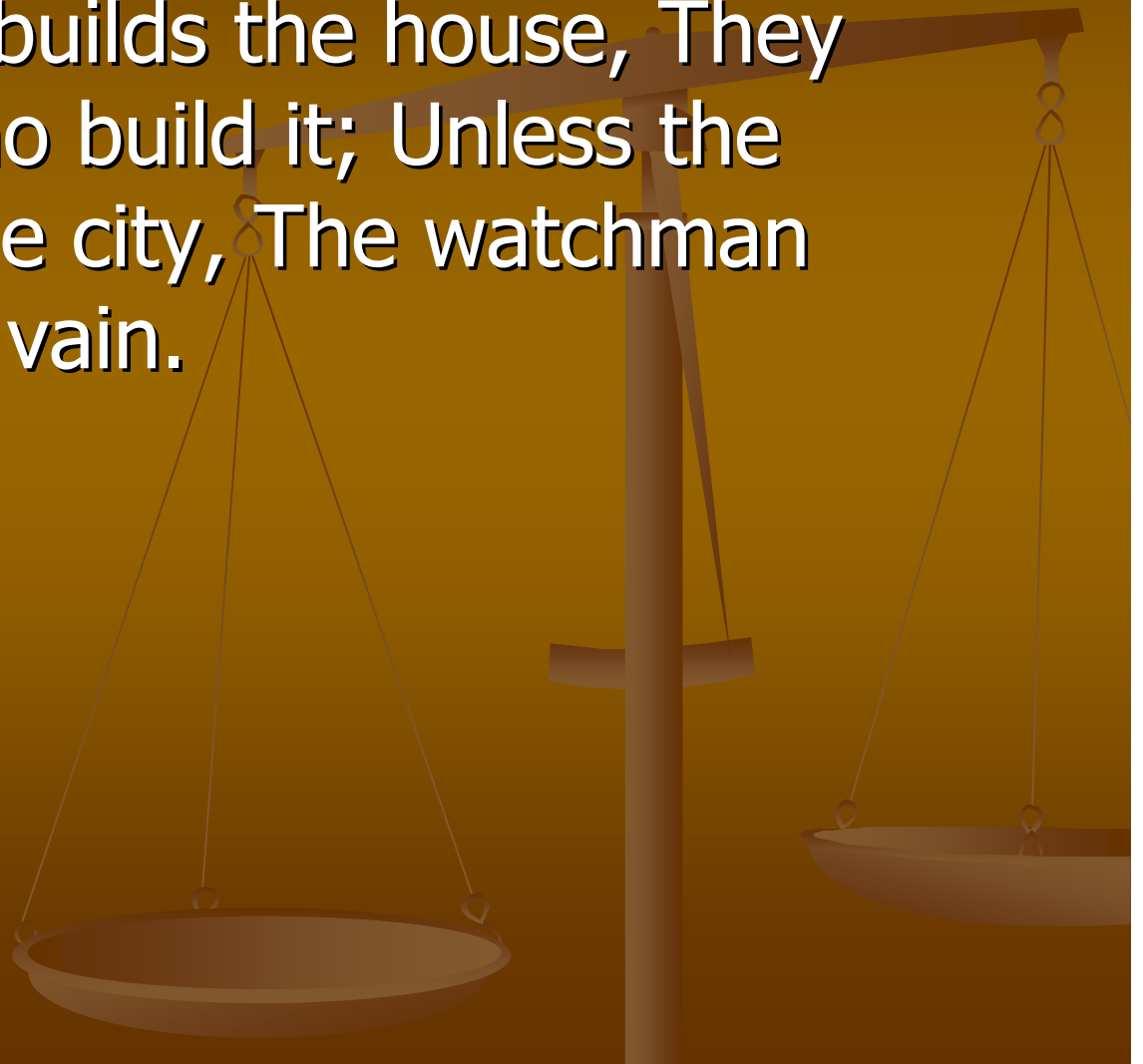
- We don't know what will happen, but if we have counted the cost, we are prepared
- We cannot be his disciples if we will not pay the price

- As a non-Christian

- Do I have to give up on all the plans I had for my life if I become a Christian?

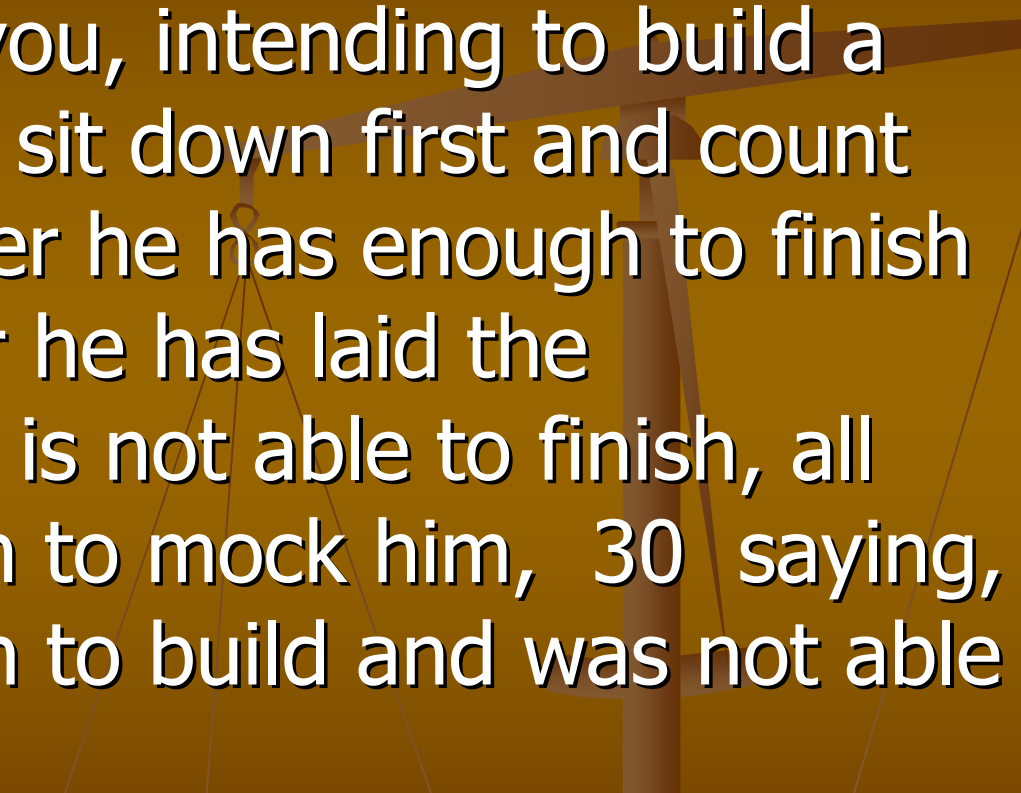
# Psalms 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house, They  
labor in vain who build it; Unless the  
LORD guards the city, The watchman  
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## Luke 14:25-33

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'



# Counting the Cost



- As a Christian

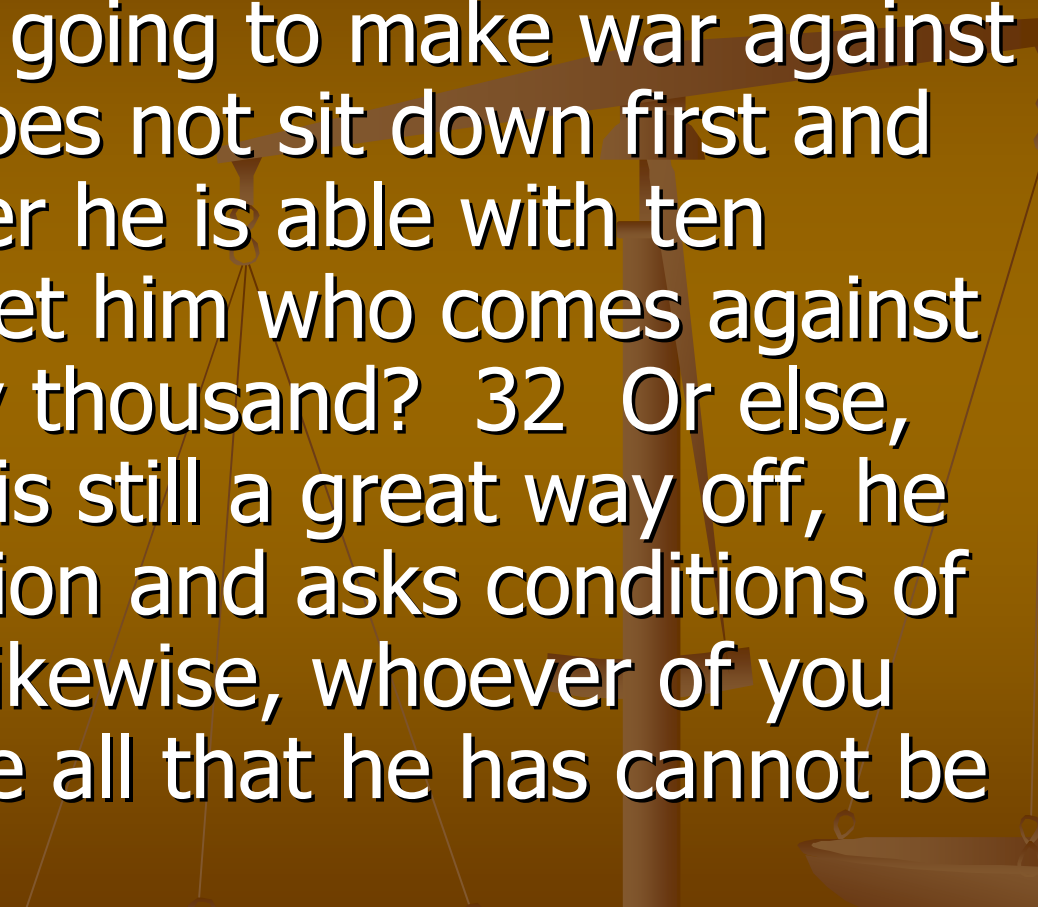
- We don't know what will happen, but if we have counted the cost, we are prepared
- We cannot be his disciples if we will not pay the price

- As a non-Christian

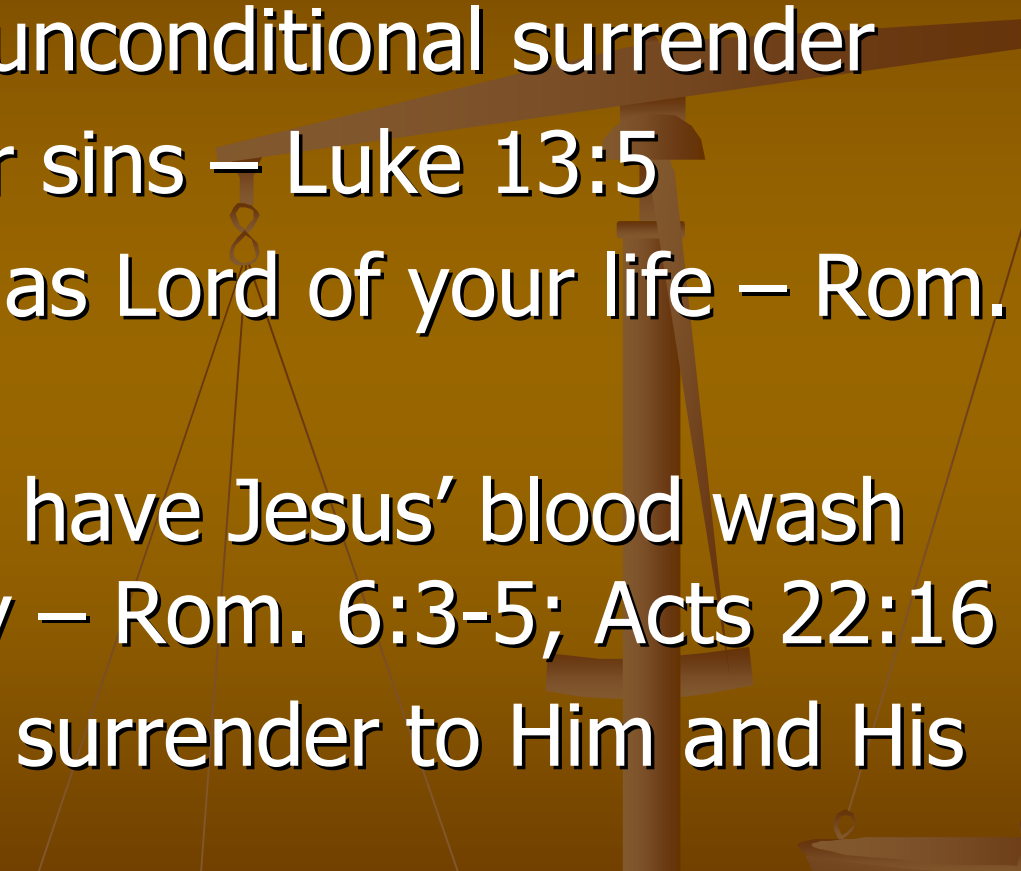
- Do I have to give up on all the plans I had for my life if I become a Christian?
- Aren't Jesus' demands a little bit extreme?

## Luke 14:25-33

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

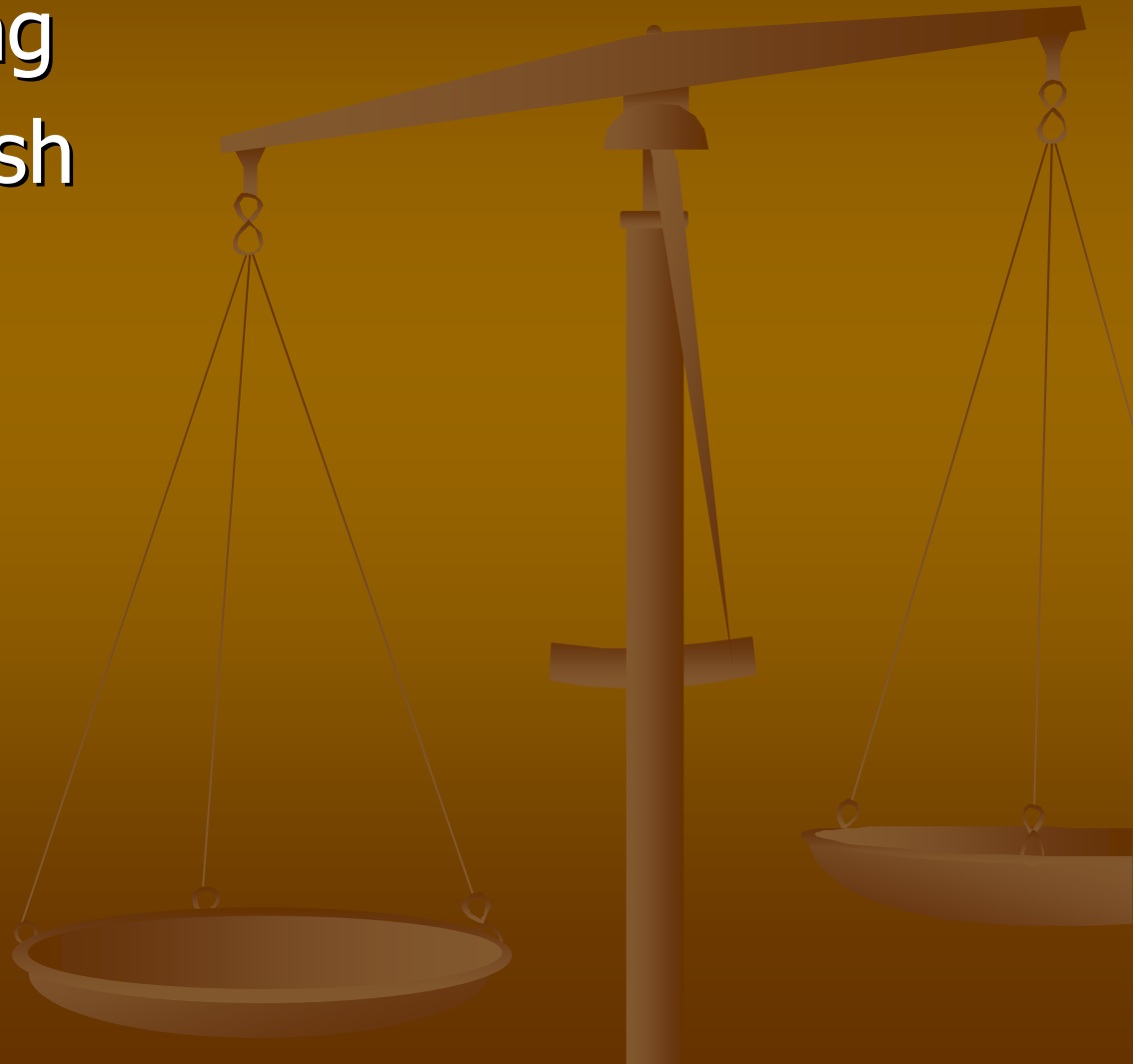


# Conditions of Peace with God

- His terms are unconditional surrender
  - Repent of your sins – Luke 13:5
  - Confess Jesus as Lord of your life – Rom. 10:9-10
  - Be baptized to have Jesus' blood wash your sins away – Rom. 6:3-5; Acts 22:16
  - Live the life of surrender to Him and His will
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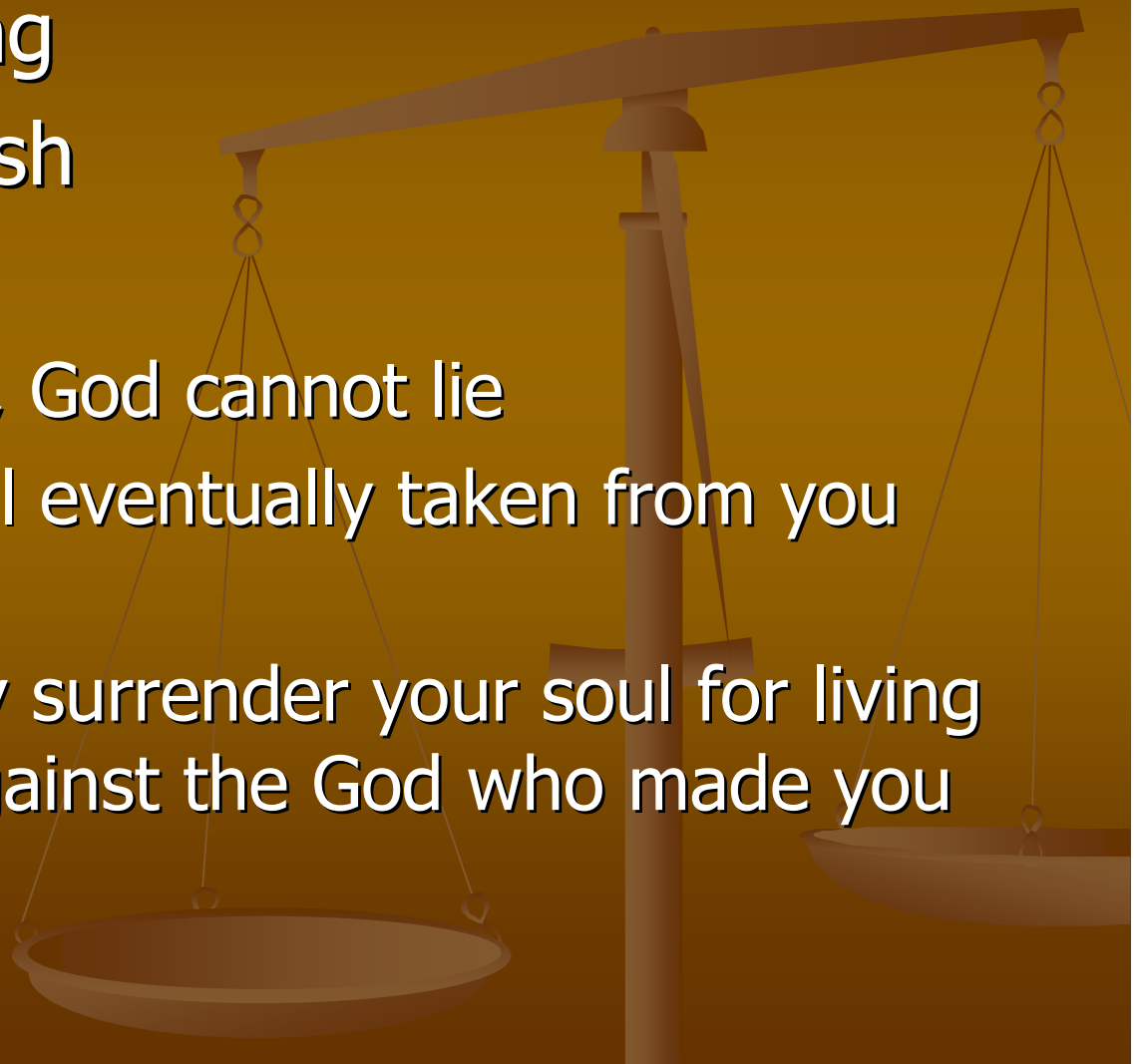
# Conditions of Peace with Satan

- Give up nothing
- Live as you wish



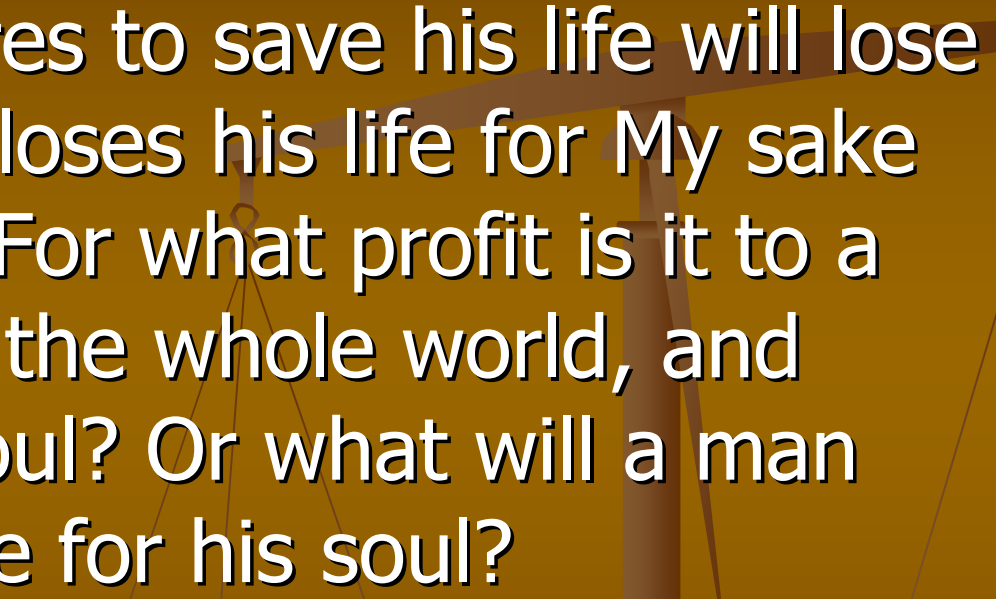
# Conditions of Peace with Satan

- Give up nothing
- Live as you wish
- BUT
  - Satan is a liar, God cannot lie
  - Everything will eventually taken from you anyway
  - You will finally surrender your soul for living in rebellion against the God who made you



# Matthew 16:25-26

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?



# Counting the Cost

- Are you...
  - A Disciple of Convenience?  
OR
  - A Disciple of Conviction?
- Which do you want to be?

