

# THE COST OF PEOPLE

By: Fountain Hendricks

(Luke 14:28-30)

Establishing a new relationship is **NOT** free. Attaining a new friend is **NOT** free. Bringing someone into your inner circle is **NOT** free. Connecting with new business associates is **NOT** free.

There is a **COST** you must pay when you are bringing people into your life. Unfortunately, most people do not realize this. Every person who enters your life will cost you something different.

## IT'S BIGGER THAN MONEY

When the word "*cost*" is mentioned the first thing people think about is money. If the word cost is relative to people money is the **LEAST** of your problems. In order to **AVOID** depression, disappointment, hardships, setbacks, etc you

must remember there is **NOTHING MORE EXPENSIVE THAN PEOPLE**. People will cost you what money cannot buy.

### HERE'S WHAT I MEAN:

- **FOOLISH PEOPLE** will cost you **TIME** because they create set backs.
- **LAZY PEOPLE** will cost you **EFFORT** because they refuse to work hard.
- **IGNORANT PEOPLE** will cost you **SAFETY** because they do not know anything.
- **WICKED PEOPLE** will cost you **ENERGY** because you are busy defending your reputation against their accusations.
- **EVIL PEOPLE** will cost you **PEACE** because they plan to harm you.

- **RELIGIOUS PEOPLE** will cost you the **KINGDOM OF GOD** because they are bound by tradition.

**EVERY PERSON YOU ENCOUNTER COMES  
WITH A PRICE TAG!**

## COUNT THE COST

(Luke 14:28)

Luke 14:28 says, *"If you want to build a tower, you first sit down and decide how much it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job."* Notice that the first thing Jesus told you to do was **SIT DOWN**.

In other words, **STOP** and **THINK**. This is the most common mistake people make. They do not stop and think about the cost of the potential relationship they are attempting to establish.

Before you embark on a relationship **ANALYZE** the cost first. This is the **MOST IMPORTANT** step. The worst thing

you can do is start a new relationship without examining the price tag.

For instance, initiating a relationship with a person who values immorality may cost you your relationship with King Jesus. Why? 1st Corinthians 15:33 says, "*Do not be fooled: "Bad friends **WILL** ruin good habits."* The Bible has **PREDICTED** the outcome of what will happen if you do not examine the cost of people.

## PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO COUNT UP THE COST OF PEOPLE WILL RUIN THEIR LIFE.

The cost of establishing a relationship with a person who values immorality is very expensive. This relationship will cost you the Kingdom of God. It will cost you your faith to stand for righteousness and so much more. When a person **FAILS** to count the cost of people they will become drained, frustrated and disappointed in the relationship.

## KNOW YOUR LIMITS

**NOTHING IS FREE!** You will have to pay something for a relationship. A wise person knows their limit. A wise person assess their inventory. A wise person knows what they can afford.

For example, if you are in the latter years of your life you **CANNOT** afford be-friending a foolish person. Why? Foolish people cause you to have set backs. If you are in the latter years of your life, set backs will destroy you!

If you are in the process of building a business you cannot afford to be-friend wicked people. Wicked people value deception, manipulation, lying and immorality. Wicked people attempt to demolish your reputation and integrity by discrediting your good name.

If you are building a business, ministry or an organization a deplorable reputation will destroy you. Knowing your vision, purpose and goals will help you determine who

you can afford to have in your life. Jesus did not select one hundred people to mentor.

He chose twelve. He understood how to analyze the **COST** of people. He knew Peter was a hot head and it would **COST HIM PATIENCE**.

He knew Judas was a traitor and it would **COST HIM HIS SAFTEY**. In-spite of what Jesus had to pay for He knew what He could **AFFORD**. Make sure you count the cost.

**WHAT CAN YOU AFFORD TO GIVE UP?**

**FOR MORE WISDOM GO TO**

**[www.thewisdomstore.com](http://www.thewisdomstore.com)**