Counting the Cost

I love the parables of Jesus. I think the reason is because He used simple day to day things to explain spiritual realities. His parables brought Heaven alive, and provided clear direction for righteous living.

One parable that Jesus gave to the people comes from Luke 14:25-35 - *Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:**“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.**And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?**For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you,**saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’**“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?**If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.**In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.**“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?**It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”*

I came across this prayer and have been unable to confirm the authorship, although parts of it seem to come from John Wesley. However, whatever the source, it is a powerful prayer that I believe all Christians should pray in some form or another, especially as the world continues to decline into immorality and idolatry. Let me warn you however, this is a powerful prayer, and it is important to consider your willingness to accept what it says, and be willing to be used by God completely, for His glory.

I pray that this will become our fervent prayer, brothers and sisters in Christ, so that the Lord will have free reign in our lives, in our community, in our state, in our nation, and throughout the world, and that He will be glorified above all else. If you are willing today to count the cost, pray this prayer with me.

*Lord Jesus, if you will receive me into your house, if you will but own me as your servant, I will not stand upon terms; impose upon me what conditions you please, write down your own articles, command me what you will, put me to anything you see as good; let me come under your roof, let me be your servant…make me what you will, Lord, and set me where you will…I put myself wholly into your hands: put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, exalted for you, or trodden under foot for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing, I freely and heartily resign all to your pleasure and disposal.*

May the Lord bless you all abundantly, and may you fulfill all the promise and potential in God’s call to you!