

Central Florida Crusade

Orlando, Florida

Saturday, April 16, 1983

(Will be on June  
telecast series) No. 1824

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## COUNTING THE COST

TEXT: Luke 14:27-33

### INTRODUCTION:

- Thousands of young people coming to Christ.
- What does it mean to "come to Christ"?
- Christ said: "Count the cost."

cost....2

When you come to Christ you must  
count the cost of your BODY, MIND  
and HEART

He must be Lord of all three.

### I. THE BODY:

"I keep under my body" (1 Corinthians 9:27)

The Bible is full of stories of  
people who were not able to control  
the passions and appetites of the body.



ILL: Eve

-- saw the forbidden tree was good  
for food -- flesh

-- was pleasant to the eyes - eyes

-- a tree to be desired - pride of life

-- Driven from the Garden of Eden.

-- Not just ancient history

-- It is as modern as you

-- You can read it on the front page of  
every newspaper every day.

-- Lust of the flesh

-- Lust of the eye

-- Pride of life

-- 1 John 2:15-17

cost....4

ILL: Esau

— sold his birthright for mess  
of pottage

— Esau was hungry and all he  
could think about was satisfying  
his hunger

— Jacob wanted his birthright and  
he sold it.

— "And he did eat and drink  
and rose up and went his way."

— How many of you have done exactly  
the same thing?

— Esau thought nothing of it at the moment.



~~-~~ Made a shipwreck of his life in  
one moment.

~~-~~ His bitter sobs could not change it.

ILL: Samson

~~-~~ strongest man in history

~~-~~ defeated an entire army with  
the jawbone of an ass

~~-~~ defeated a lion in battle

~~-~~ but another lion, the lion of  
his own body, he could not control.

~~-~~ Beautiful Delilah.

~~-~~ Destroyed by lust and sex.

1. Drugs

ILL: Famous psychiatrist said

~~/~~ within 5 years the majority of  
hospitals in America are likely  
to be filled with marijuana users  
suffering from damaged brains.

ILL: Girl wrote to Ann Landers

~~/~~ signing herself

~~/~~ "Crazy punk trying to come back"

~~/~~ "I'm 17, a high school drop-out  
and no writer," she wrote,



-- But I have something to say.

You hear so much about kids  
blowing grass, getting zonked  
on pills, and stoned on booze.

I've gone every route you can  
think of . . .

"I'm off everything now and I  
hope it isn't too late. Maybe I've  
already burned my brains out and  
fixed it so my children will be  
born deformed or retarded.

"I have only one thing to say to  
the . . . (others) who are messing  
around trying to turn themselves on:  
You won't find any answers there.  
Something that goes up must come down,

"and when you come down you will be much lower than you were to begin with."

## 2. Sex:

~~—~~ Sex-saturated culture

~~—~~ Peer pressure:

~~—~~ friends, classmates, teammates

~~—~~ In essence they say "conform or get lost."

~~—~~ No one enjoys losing friends.

~~—~~ What does the Bible say?



— "Nor the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness."

— Jude\_10 : "These be they who separate themselves, sensual and not having the Spirit."

— Premarital sex relations.

— 11\_Corinthians\_6:18: "Flee fornication. He that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

ILL: The devil, through TV, films, books  
says

-- "do it."

-- The Bible warns:

-- Don't do it

-- abstain from fornication.

### 3. Gluttony:

ILL: One out of every 3 adults in this  
country is believed to be overweight."

ILL: Daniel in Babylon purposed in his  
heart that he would not defile  
himself.



-- Philippians 3:19: "Whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite and whose glory is their shame, who mind earthly things."

-- The body -- then the mind.

## II. THE MIND:

-- "Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"  
(11\_Corinthians\_10:5).

ILL: No American has an I.Q. above 180.

Only a dozen have about 180;

only 3,000 - 170; 5,000 - 160;

15,000 - 150; a million - 140;

and so on down.

But God will hold you accountable  
for the mind He has given you.

ILL: A penny for your thoughts.

But your thoughts are worth far more  
than a penny.

The true wealth of your life is in  
your thoughts.



cost...15

Literature, television, radio are  
competing for your thoughts.

ILL: There was a classified ad in a  
newspaper which read:

"For sale, Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Never used -- my wife knows everything."

The Bible says

"Study to show thyself approved unto  
God, a workman that needeth not  
to be ashamed."

An idle mind is the devil's  
workshop. Give your mind to Christ  
and you'll give it to His Word.

~~--~~ The Scripture says

~~--~~ "He that ruleth his spirit is  
greater than he that taketh  
a city" (Proverbs 16:32).

~~--~~ Your mind

~~--~~ a heaven or a hell

~~--~~ When you come to Christ you must  
bring your mind.



Paul wrote to the Philippians (4:8):

-- "Whotsoever things are true,  
whatsoever things are honest,  
whatsoever things are just, whatsoever  
things are pure, whatsoever things  
are lovely, whatsoever things are of  
good report; if there be any virtue,  
and if there be any praise, think  
on these things."

Many minds here tonight are filled  
with pride, anger, envy, jealousy  
and hatred.

The remedy is to let Christ take control  
of the mind and bring every thought into  
captivity.

Paul taught "we have the mind of Christ" and exhorted, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Jesus Himself said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind."

Evil thoughts are the suicide of the soul.

The Bible speaks of those who have hostile minds:

minds were blinded

reprobate minds

doubtful minds

carnally minded

shaken in mind



~~/~~ troubled in mind

~~/~~ a double-minded man.

~~/~~ Some have blown their minds on drugs.

~~/~~ The Bible promises

~~/~~ "Transformed by the renewing of  
your mind."

~~/~~ The Bible promises you a "sound mind."

~~/~~ The peace of God shall keep your mind.

~~/~~ "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace  
whose mind is stayed on Thee."

~~Habakkuk~~ promised "Then shall his mind change."

~~The Lord~~ has actually asked you to change your mind, and He will change your heart."

We read in Acts 28:6 that when they were "come to Him they changed their minds."

~~It will~~ change when you have the "humility of mind, the readiness of mind, the willing mind to give your whole life to Jesus Christ as Lord."



- Paul told the Corinthians that there must be first a willing mind.

### III. THE HEART:

- The Bible says in Proverbs 6:18 that you have a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations.
- Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?"

ILL: A doctor's receptionist was  
approached by a man who obviously  
needed help.

Asked for his name the man  
answered, "Charles Burdan."

"Spelling, please," asked the  
receptionist.

Replied Mr. Burdan:

"B-u-r-d-a-n --

"B" as in bursitis,

"U" as in ulcer,

"R" as in rheumatism,

"D" as in dyspepsia,

"A" as in acute anxiety,

and "N" as in neuralgia."



~~The~~ The Bible says man's heart is in bad shape.

~~Jesus~~ Jesus said "For from 'within', out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, "Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

"All these evil things come from 'within', and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23).

~~The~~ The human heart is a volcano.

~~The~~ The Bible teaches it is far from God.

~~✍~~ "This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoreth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8).

~~✍~~ Because man is a sinner, he is lost.

~~✍~~ He is born that way, and he cannot account for his conduct on any other basis than (as the film title said)

~~✍~~ we are "Born Losers."

~~✍~~ The Bible teaches you have a rebellious heart.



Jeremiah 5:23 "But this people have a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone."

Your heart can be hardened.

— "Pharaoh's heart is hardened."

God knows the heart.

— "Shall not God 'search' this out?  
for He knoweth the secrets of the  
heart" (Psalms 44:21).

He searches the heart.

— "I the Lord 'search' the heart,  
I try the reins" (Jeremiah 17:10).

- The penalty for a sinful heart is death and judgment.
- Throughout the Scriptures we have the expression "the blood of Christ."
- It means that His heart bled for your sins.
- God prepares your heart for Christ.
- Proverbs 16:1: "The preparations of the heart in man is from the Lord."



Acts 16:14 "Whose heart the Lord  
openeth." - *LYDIA*

*✍* God will give you a new heart.

*✍* Ezekiel 36:26 "A new heart also  
will I give you."

*✍* Christ said "Except a man be born again,  
he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven."

*✍* "A good man out of the good treasures  
of the heart bringeth forth good things"  
(Matthew 12:35).

ILL: A shop, dirty, shabby, drab,  
sold: "Under New Management."

He redecorates it, makes it  
attractive.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ,  
he is a new creature."

When you come to Christ you must come  
with your BODY, your MIND, and your  
HEART.

I am going to ask you to choose Christ  
tonight.



ILL: A great psychologist *Said*

-- "over and above the circumstances which control all of us, there exists an inner experience of choice which is very important."

~~So~~ So important is the matter of choosing Christ, the Bible says, that Heaven or Hell turns on it.

~~The Bible says you can~~ The Bible says you can choose Christ or chaos; Satan or the Saviour; life or death.

ILL: Two Hollywood actresses

~~—~~ overheard conversing one day

~~—~~ one referred to her horoscope

~~—~~ said the other, "I didn't know  
you believed in astrology."

~~—~~ "Oh!" came the reply, "I believe  
in everything a little bit."

~~—~~ And that's just what is wrong with  
millions of Americans.

~~—~~ Thousands of you here tonight believe  
a "little bit" in Jesus Christ.



Tonight I am going to ask you to believe with all your heart, all your mind, and all your body.

Mentally accept the fact that Jesus Christ died and rose again for your sins;

In your heart ask Him to come in and be your Saviour and Lord;

and with your body come forward and present yourself in person, confessing Him as God and King.

Peace floods the soul when Christ rules the heart, mind and body.