

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Anyone who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.” (Mt. 10:38)

In the business world, reward is quantified into the amount realized as return on investment. Thus, investment is the cost or sums you put in to reap the intended return. The greater the risk on your investment, the more return is expected.

One can gain, or go bust. On the other hand, our faith offers a much certain conclusion. Its foundation rests upon the fact that ***“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.”*** (John 3:16) Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross as expiation for our sins. He has gained for us our victory over sin and death. Therefore, our response to His call to discipleship must be at all cost. The Lord’s call is clear: ***“Come and follow me and I will make you fishers of men”***. His order is straight forward, ***“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them all that I have commanded you.”*** (Matthew 28:19)

To faithfully heed His call, we must overcome our delimiting nature and the dictates of our daily grinds and chores. In Romans 6:13, it says ***“surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes”***. Discipleship may be inconvenient, hard, embarrassing, or even scary, but our model, inspiration and source of strength is Jesus, who gave up all for us. We must follow Him and if called to, share in His suffering.

“Friendship with God is reserved for those who revere him.” (Psalm 25:14a) His friends are those who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give solace to the weary, serve the least of our brothers and sisters, for in doing so, we do the same to Him. When we perform our work in whatever ministry God has given us, we fulfill the call to discipleship. The assignment of a task is an opportunity to grow into servanthood.

“Whoever wants to be great must become a servant.” (Mark 10:43) Our business investment could go sour, but our “investments” in the Lord offer the certainty of immeasurable return- eternal salvation. For He said, “I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:20) ***“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”*** (John 12:26)