

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

In Luke 14, Jesus told a large crowd that if they wanted to be His disciple, they must first "count the cost." Jesus never manipulated anyone into following Him. He simply told them the truth. If they want to be His disciple, the cost would be a total surrender to Him and then loving Him above everyone and everything.

John 12 tells us that Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, freely gave to Jesus the costliest possession she would ever own. She gave out of love and gratitude when she anointed Jesus with her "costly ointment." That costly act also included suffering the insults and ridicule of those who saw her do it.

In II Samuel 24, we are told that one of King David's great sins would be atoned for if he made an altar and offered a sacrifice. When given the chance to present an offering provided by someone else, David responded that he would not make a sacrifice to the Lord "with that which costs me nothing."

What do our sacrifices actually cost us? Do we give only out of our abundance? Do we love and obey our Lord only when convenient? Do we serve only when it suits us? Are we all too happy to offer sacrifice of that which costs us nothing? Is there anything in our lives that we are not willing to surrender and place in His merciful hands? A fair-weather disciple is no disciple at all. Discipleship is costly, but worth it. Paul considered "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18) This life is short. Eternity is, well, eternal.

"What language shall I borrow, to thank thee dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end? O make me thine forever, and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee."

See ya'll Sunday,

Perry Cunningham
Lay Leader LMC