

down. We give dramatic testimonies about being freed from addictive behaviours. Then the attention shifts to another new believer, and we discover that "little" sins like jealousy, resentment, and anger don't drop away as readily as the "big" ones. Some of us get so discouraged that we lose sight of our commitment to Christ and go back to some of our old ways of living.

When Jesus talked about the cost of being His disciple (Luke 14:25-35), He wanted those who heard Him to realize that believing in Him and following Him involves more than starting something that is exciting. It means sticking with something that is difficult.

So whether we're talking about weight loss or spiritual gain, the message is the same: What matters most is not how we start but how we finish. — JAL

*Onward and upward your course plan today,
Seeking new heights as you walk Jesus' way;
Heed not past failures, but strive for the prize,
Aiming for goals fit for His holy eyes. —Brandt*

Perseverance makes the difference between failure and success.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

DECEMBER 6, 2020

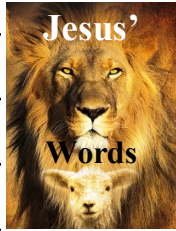
The Last Few Pounds

Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. — Luke 14:33

Whatever weight-loss plan you choose, you're bound to lose kilos—at least for a while. But most dieters reach a plateau before they reach their goal, and many get discouraged when the thrill leaves before all the weight does. Many give up and go back to their old ways of eating.

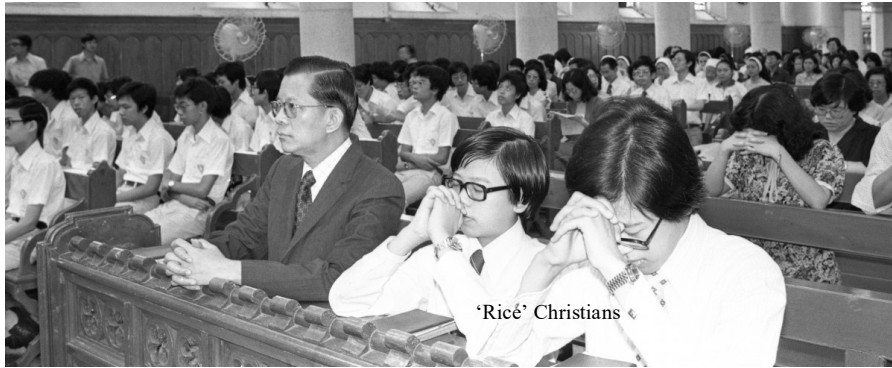
Something similar happens in our Christian lives. When we begin our walk with Jesus, we easily shed many of the sins that have weighed us





Join the Feast II

In Luke 14:25-35 we must count the cost of following the Lord Jesus in three areas of our lives:



1. _____, verses 25-26
(Mark 12:31) .. "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ..."

2. _____, verses 26-32
Romans 6:11-13 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (12) Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. (13) And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

(Galatians 2:20) I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

(Philippians 1:21) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

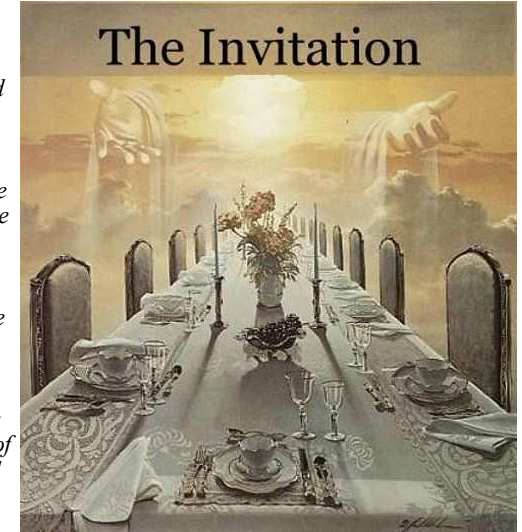
(2 Corinthians 5:15) and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.



(Revelation 3:20) Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

(Revelation 19:7-9) Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." (8) And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (9) Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

(Revelation 7:15-17) Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. (16) They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; ...; (17) for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."



3. _____, verses 33-35
(James 4:1-2) Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? (2) You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. ...



Robert Murray McCheyne