

It's Worth It !
Text : Matthew 10: 24-42

INTRODUCTION :

A. Why would anyone climb Mt. Everest ?

1. One climber famously replied, "*Because it's there.*"
 - a. There have been only 5104 successful ascents. (*Guides repeat trip.*)
 - b. In its history only 3142 people have made it to the top.
2. People climb it because it's the highest mountain there is to climb.
 - a. Just over 29, 000 ft. (*Many passenger planes fly at 30,000 ft.*)
 - b. In Tibet it is called the "Holy Mother."
3. It is a very dangerous mountain to climb.
 - a. The air is so thin many have died from lack of oxygen. (*Fluctuates w/ weather*)
 - b. The weather is very cold and unpredictable. (*Storms come quickly.*)
 - c. The winds are so strong they can dislodge climbers. (*Have reached 175 mph*)
4. It requires months or years of physical preparation.
 - a. One must be in tiptop physical condition. (*Medical clearance, inoculations*)
 - b. One must learn the physical skills required and how to use equipment.
 - c. One must practice on lesser mountains first to gain experience.

* *All this is necessary because the climb is challenging at best and painful.*
5. The climb is expensive.
 - a. The cost of preparation and equipment have never been calculated.
 - b. The direct cost will vary from a minimum of 70,000 to above 100,000.

* *The permit alone costs \$10,000. (\$4,000 on Chinese side)*
6. It is a very time consuming endeavor.
 - a. The preparation commonly takes years.
 - b. One must allow 40 to 60 days for the expedition.

* *This is a significant sacrifice for employed individuals.*
7. There is a significant risk of failure.
 - a. More people fail than succeed.
 - b. 219 people have died in the attempt.

8. Considering all of this, is it really worth it ?
 - a. Some who fail regret the effort, but most don't.
 - b. **But ...** no one who has reached the summit has regretted the journey.
- * *On the way up the pain may cause them to question, but on the summit ...*

B. The Christian's journey through life has many similarities to the climber.

I. We undertake the journey knowing that it will be marked by many challenges.

A. Jesus forewarned all who will follow Him.

1. Even the most basic earthly relationship (*the family*) may be destroyed.
Matt. 10: 34-36 Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ "For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and a man's enemies will be the members of his household.
- Existing problems may get worse.*
2. When only one of the partners is a Christian a marriage can be destroyed.
 - a. **I Cor. 7: 10-16** ... Don't leave unless faithfulness demands it. (cf- **I Pet. 3:1-4**)
 - b. Christians must not bind themselves together with unbelievers. (**II Cor. 6: 14-18**)

B. One can look at the history of the church to see what he will face as a Christian.

1. The Apostle Paul pointed to abuses as a normal part of the Christian experience.
II Cor. 4: 6-12 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸ we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.
2. The Hebrew writer pointed to one's enduring abuses as a measure of his faithfulness.
Heb. 10: 32-34 But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, ³³ partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. ³⁴ For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. (*Satan attacks you as his enemy.*)

C. This is why Jesus admonished us to count the cost before beginning the journey.

1. **Luke 14: 26-30** If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. **27** Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. **28** For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? **29** Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, **30** saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'
- Compare : Mark 3:21
Bros. of Jesus
though He had
lost His mind.*
2. This stands in stark contrast to the modern view of "church" and of "Christianity."
 - a. Give Christ an occasional Sunday morning when the weather is good, when you're not too tired and when you're not busy with entertainment or family activities.
 - b. Select a church which has the features that YOU want ... activities, free services.

II. Seven reasons why serving Christ is worth whatever it may cost us on this earth.

A. 1/ It's worth it because the reward God gives is greater than anything on earth.

1. **Heb. 11: 6** – And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
 2. **Rom. 8: 16–18** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. **18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- Paul did cost vs
Benefit analysis.*

B. 2/ It's worth it because it makes a relationship with Jesus possible.

1. Those who stay faithful through suffering will reign with Christ.
II Tim. 2: 10–12 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and with it* eternal glory. **11** It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; **12** If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;
2. Remember ... **Rom. 8:17b** – ... if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

C. 3/ It's worth it because Jesus has placed me into His body, the church.

1. The physical body of Jesus was subjected to more pain than any of us today.

2. The church is the physical presence of Christ on the earth today. (**I Cor. 12: 12f**)
3. Therefore, each Christian must use his body as Jesus would use His.
(**Gal. 2: 20** , **Rom. 6: 6** , **II Cor. 5: 14f** , **Acts 2: 47**)

D. 4/ It's worth it because ONLY in Christ Jesus can one live without fear.

1. **I John 5: 13** – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.
14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
2. We have someone of power to take care of our problems.
I Pet 5: 6–7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. (*The sovereign King cares for you personally.*)
3. No matter what the conflict or adversity, if one is IN CHRIST he has peace within.

E. 5/ It's worth it because Jesus is going to give to me a new body.

1. **I Cor. 15: 50–54** Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.
51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. **53** For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.
54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.
2. This body grows old and has pain, but the new body will never grow old.

F. 6/ It's worth it because our new body will dwell in a house not made with hands.

1. **John 14: 1–3** Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.
2. Peter assures us that our new dwelling place is there waiting on us.
I Pet. 1: 3–9 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a

little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, **7** so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **8** and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **9** obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. (*Hang in there, it's worth it.*)

3. *Nothing on this earth is permanent, but I am going to an eternal home.*

G. **7 It's worth it because after it's all over we will dwell with Jesus ever more.**

1. Our relationship with Jesus will never end; it is eternal.

Remember ... II Tim. 2: 11–12 ... For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; **12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; ...**

2. Even death cannot break our relationship with our Lord.

I Thes. 5: 9–11 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

3. In Heaven we will live with God and serve Him face to face.

Rev. 22: 3–5 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His **bond-servants** (**us**) will serve Him; **4** they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. **5** And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they (**us**) will reign forever and ever.

III. Christians face many challenges in this world.

A. We live under constant social pressure to “fit in”, to conform to social norms.

1. We must constantly be seeking to be UNCONFORMED. (**Rom. 12:2**) *Society seeks same*
2. Non-conformity makes us as different as light and darkness.
3. Darkness hates light (**John 3: 20**) so Christians will never be accepted by the world.

B. As long as a Christian remains in his fleshly body, he must war against its desires.

1. **Gal. 5: 16–17** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (*It is a war with one's self.*)
2. It requires a daily self-discipline (**I Cor. 9: 27**) but the victory it is worth the struggle.

C. One's relationship with Christ may cost him all of his earthly relationships.

1. Family members who interfere with serving God. (**Matt. 10**)
2. Friends who are a stumbling block to one's sanctification.
3. Exclusion from advantageous associations.

ILL. – Jews who followed Christ were put out of the synagogue. (**John 9: 22)**

CONCLUSION :**A. Like climbing Mt. Everest, No matter how difficult the Christian's journey, the successful completion will be worth it all.**

1. The reward God gives is greater in comparison.
2. Our struggles make a relationship with Jesus possible.
3. Jesus has placed us into His body, the church.
4. ONLY in Christ Jesus can one live without fear.
5. Jesus is going to give to us a new body that will be pain free forever.
6. Our new body will dwell in a house not made with hands, eternal in Heaven.
7. Those who complete the journey will dwell with Jesus ever more.

B. The longest journey begins with a single step.

1. You are on a journey right now.
2. Where will that journey take you ?

INVITATION :

Jesus invites you to journey with Him.

He will lead you safely home to His eternal abode.

Lesson Texts :**Matthew 10: 24-42**

24 A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

25 It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more *will they malign* the members of his household!

26 Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **27** What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered* in *your* ear, proclaim upon the housetops. **28** Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

32 Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **33** But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

34 Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; **36** and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

40 He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. **41** He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. **42** And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

Passages Read :

Matt. 10: 34-36

II Cor. 4: 6-12

Heb. 10: 32-34

Luke 14: 26-30

Heb. 11: 6

Rom. 8: 16-18

II Tim. 2: 10-12

I John 5: 13

I Pet 5: 6-7

I Cor. 15: 50-54

John 14: 1-3

I Pet. 1: 3-9

I Thes. 5: 9-11

Rev. 22: 3-5

Gal. 5: 16-17

Passages Sited :

I Cor. 7: 10-16

I Pet. 3:1-4

II Cor. 6: 14-18

I Cor. 12: 12f

Gal. 2: 20

Rom. 6: 6

II Cor. 5: 14f

Acts 2: 47

Rom. 12: 2

I Cor. 9: 27

Col. 3: 1-2

Phil. 2: 5-9

Matt. 10 text

John 9: 22