

Are you willing to pay the price, to become a better Christian in 2007?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **illus.:** went to the store one time, picked up an item and went to the checkout to pay for it, the price was much higher than marked, questioned the cashier who verified the price, told her I didn't want the item - **the price was too high - not willing to pay the price**
- **This lesson:** Are you willing to pay the price - better Christian - 2007 — new years eve

➤ Jesus: there is a price (to pay, to serve Christ, to go to heaven) - doesn't mean you can earn salvation

- **Matt. 10:24-34** we're not greater than Jesus, we must suffer as He suffered - brought a sword to earth
- **vs. 24** you can't expect people to treat you better than Jesus - you should expect to suffer as He suffered
- **vs. 25** if treated like Jesus, not think life is so bad
 - **Heb. 12:3-4** consider Jesus, endured hostility by sinners, not grow weary and lose heart
- **vs. 26-28** attitude: not fear, truth will be known — fear God
 - **vs. 29-30** God's divine care and guidance: God knows, nothing happens without his knowledge
- **vs. 32-33** therefore confess Jesus
- **vs. 34** Jesus did not come to bring peace, but a sword — **there's a price, cost**

➤ What is the cost of discipleship? — 2007

- **Matt. 16:24-26** deny self, take up cross - love Jesus more than self - **put Him above self**
- **vs. 24** Jesus' disciple, deny himself (**illus.:** diet during holidays), take up cross and follow Jesus
- **vs. 25** must love Jesus more than yourself, anything you want or desire
- **vs. 26** vanity of material wealth if not saved, can't buy salvation
- **illus.:** Stephen (Acts 7), preach truth, Jews killed
- **illus.:** Paul - 2 Cor. 11:23-28

➤ - Matt. 10:34-39 must love Jesus more than family - put Him above family, friends, peer pressure

- **vs. 34** nature of Jesus' message separates those who obey from those who disobey
- **vs. 35-36** family members divided
- **vs. 37** can divide family, if all family not obey Jesus
 - **1 Cor. 16:22** love Jesus
 - **Jn. 14:15** love, obey
- **vs. 38-39** Take up cross, follow Jesus, to be worthy of Jesus and salvation — must lose life to find life
- **illus.:** Peter left father, left all
 - **Matt. 4:18-22** Peter and Andrew left father to follow Jesus, be apostle
 - **Matt. 19:27-30** Peter, apostles left all, Jesus tells them of the reward

➤ - Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23 serve God with the few people who will be saved — run with the minority, not the majority

- **illus.:** Noah and family, eight persons were brought safely through the water, in the ark — **minority**

➤ **Have you counted the cost for 2007?**

- **Lk. 14:25-35 count the cost**

- vs. 26-27, 33 the cost - review from above

- vs. 28-29, 30-32 count the cost — **2 illus.: builder, king before war** — **not count, fail, waste life**

- vs. 34-35 result if we do not count cost as Christian

- **2 Pet. 2:20-22** those who don't count cost of being disciple, fail, worse off than before attempted - **illus.: dog and sow**

➤ - **Questions for your heart — 2007:**

- **Have you counted the cost for 2007?**

- **What will it cost you to become a better Christian?** — time, \$, mentally, physically

- **What will you have to do** to become a better Christian?

- **What changes will you have to make** to become a better Christian?

- **Who do you want to be** one year from now? — be **different** in one year?

- **Questions for your heart — review 2006:**

- **What could you have done better** this year — 2006?

- **If you could live 2006 all over again**, what would you have done differently?

- **How committed are you to making 2007 a better year**, not repeating the same mistakes?

➤ **If you'll pay the cost today (be Jesus disciple), He will give you the water of life without cost!**

- **Rev. 22:17** invitation, Spirit and bride (Jesus)

- **inv.**

- **illus.: like Noah and his family** who were saved from the flood through water — 8 people total

- **1 Pet. 3:21** baptism now saves you - not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God