

A LIFE WORTH LIVING “Counting the Cost”

²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) **I am more.** I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, **been flogged** more severely, and been **exposed to death** again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the **forty lashes minus one.** ²⁵ Three times I was **beaten with rods**, once I was **pelted with stones**, three times I was **shipwrecked**, I spent a night and a day in the **open sea**, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger **from rivers**, in danger **from bandits**, in danger **from my fellow Jews**, in danger **from Gentiles**; in danger **in the city**, in danger **in the country**, in danger **at sea**; and in danger **from false believers.** ²⁷ I have **labored and toiled** and have often **gone without sleep**; I have known **hunger and thirst** and have often gone without food; I have been **cold and naked.** ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face **daily the pressure** of my concern for all the churches.
2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NIV)

²⁹ Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? ³⁰ **If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.** ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me. ³³ But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.
2 Corinthians 11:29-33 (NIV)

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant **looking for fine pearls.** ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and **sold everything he had and bought it.**
Matthew 13:45-46 (NIV)

True sacrifice is giving up something you love for something you love more.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me **I now consider loss** for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. **I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ** ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. **Philippians 3:7-11 (NIV)**

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. **But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,** ¹⁴ **I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**
Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

NO MATTER THE COST, JESUS IS WORTH THE PRICE!