

Never Count the Cost

By

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Leonard Ravenhill in *Meat for Men* wrote, "Recently, we visited an elaborate and opulent temple in the Far East. This experience reminded me of one Christian visitor who, overwhelmed with the ornate place and its static wealth, asked a heathen worshipper, 'What is the actual cost of erecting a temple like this?' The startled devotee replied in pained surprise, 'What is the cost? This temple is for our god, and for him we never count the cost.'"

Ravenhill then quoted this ancient prayer:

Teach us, good Lord,
To serve Thee more faithfully;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil and not to seek for rest;
To labor and not to ask for any reward
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will.

As I scan the list of heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, I notice these men and women of vision had one thing in common. When it came to serving their God, they never counted the cost. They willingly gave all. It's been years since I've heard that little song, "Take it all...What this world can offer me, take it all. For one hundred years from now, it won't matter anyhow." Oh, for a resurgence of that attitude!

How much is biblically expected when it comes to contributing to the kingdom of heaven; making a kingdom investment? The answer contains three simple letters: ALL.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he...selleth **all** that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold **all** that he had, and bought it" (Matthew 13:44-46).

This issue of *OnSite* highlights and honors North-American and regional missionaries who daily pay the ultimate sacrifice of giving themselves unreservedly so that the Gospel is spread throughout our world.

The theme for the General Conference 2007 Foreign Missions service is an apt one: "More." More men. More mission. More sacrifice. More passion. When it comes to serving God, never count the cost. Give all!