

Vaughnsville,

January, 14, 1923.

W. Whittier "The Cost of Discipleship" *Richmond*

7/8/15

A.M.

Scripture Lesson: -Matt. 16:24-28: Lk. 14:26-33
Mark 8:34-38.

Text: -Matt 16:24

Introduction: -Give setting in relation to context. Recall sermon of Jan. 7. A further test. The disciples to know the whole cost, so if they will follow it will not be blindly, but fully aware of all that is involved. He now goes to the very heart of things - the innermost secret of the Kingdom.

I. Deny Himself.

1. Not the giving up of some small unimportant thing, but giving of life to God.
2. Death of self-will and birth of God-will.

II. Take Up His Cross.

1. Point where self-will and God-will come into direct conflict.
2. Jesus met the great climax in the Garden. Not my will but Thine be done. If we are indeed followers of him we must be able to say the same.

III. Why This Frankness of Jesus?

1. Because he knew what is in man.
 - a. That which responds to high demands - capacity for daring and enduring.
 - b. Glory of Christianity - it appeals to noblest and best that is in man.
 - c. Easier to follow the frivolous superficial ways of world than to be a Christian.
 - d. Jesus never called men to follow him for happiness, to please parents, or friends, or to save their own souls. These are selfish. His appeal is, "follow me I will make you fishers of men". Oh let us be Christians, men women, young people, not to----- but to redeem our community, to strengthen our nation, to bring world to Christ, and when we have done that, we will be sure of heaven.

IV. Christianity Develops Heroes.

1. Some say war is necessary to keep us from becoming effeminate, to develop best qualities

of manhood. Not so as long as Christianity is in the world. Military heroism not highest form of courage. Moral courage higher. Is best developed in battle of righteousness against sin etc.

Conclusion:

There is opportunity for suffering today. Not same as in days past, sword etc. Advice of Whittier, "Young man, if you want to win success identify yourself with an unpopular but noble cause." Cause of Jesus is unpopular with mass of men. Some will smile at you, deride you, for being a Christian but deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him