



Rev. Georgetta Head

Let's talk about "counting the cost!" You have \$50 dollars until payday and payday is a week away! You are invited to have dinner with friends over the weekend – what should you do?

Better yet you are leafing through a magazine or watching a Home Shopping channel and you are tempted by what you see and pull out a credit card to charge the item – did you count the cost or will you impulsively purchase the item – do you really need it?

If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving—it will be used to measure what is given back to you.

Luke 6:38

God wants us to have our desires, but He doesn't want us craving for things we do not need or use once we receive them. The Word says to "count the cost!" **Luke 14:28** tells us: *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"* In other words, we are to know the outcome of our financial decision making and to be prepared at all times. If you decide to spend your last \$50.00, which is Plan A, what is your Plan B? Do you have a backup plan to get back and forth to work after spending your "last \$50.00?" If you purchase that magazine item or Home Shopping Channel product, can you afford to pay the credit card back in a timely manner, can you afford the addition of the interest incurred. What plan do you have in place if something should happen and you fail to make your credit card payments? This is called counting the cost, having Plan A and Plan B in place to eliminate impulse spending, and to plan before spending.

Now this doesn't mean we have to be stingy or afraid to spend money, this means we need to have balance in spending and become accountable for what God entrusted to us. As we trust God for our finances, He will reward us, and when He rewards us, we are also instructed to save for self and learn to bless others through tithes and offerings. Learn to follow God's commandments about becoming a "good steward/manager of what He has entrusted to you. As you are faithful in the small areas of your life, God will bless you and enlarge your territory – remember the prayer of Jabez? God says Jabez was more "honorable than his brothers." God honors faithfulness, are you faithful in the areas of your finances?

Do you want increase? Do you want to be rid of lack? Then become honorable with the money, property, and ALL areas of your finance and God will bless you as you are "able" to handle what He has for you!

Remember, we are to "glorify" God in all we do, are you glorifying God in your spending?