



"Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27 (and 9:23) NIV

What does it mean to take up my cross?

A - SELF-DENIAL

"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life." Matthew 19:29 NASB

B - COMPLETE DEDICATION

"All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got." 1 Corinthians 9:25-26 MSG

C - WILLING OBEDIENCE

"If you love me, you will obey my commands. / You are my friends if you do what I command you." John 14:15 and 15:14 NCV

Why My Response To Jesus' Invitation Should Be Rational, Considered and Enlightened  
(And Not Emotional, Naive or Foolish)

Reason #1 - So that my resolve will be EXAMINED.

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?" Luke 14:28 NIV

Reason #2 - So that my reputation will be TRUSTED.

"For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'" Luke 14:29-30 NIV

Reason #3 - So that my resistance will be EXPECTED.

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?" Luke 14:31 NIV

Reason #4 - So that my reliance (on God) will be PRESUMED.

"If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace." Luke 14:32 NIV

Reason #5 - So that my relationship (to God) will be PRIORITIZED.

"In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:33 NIV

Reason #6 - So that my results (for God) will be SAVORED.

"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out." Luke 14:34 NIV