

THE COST OF CHRISTMAS AND OF FOLLOWING CHRIST

Selected Scriptures

Christmas may be “the most wonderful time of the year” but it’s also one of the most expensive times of the year. One report estimates that an average household will spend almost \$2500 this season on festive food, decorations, and gifts. But even beyond the *financial* cost, Christmas also can carry a *relational* cost with family tensions and social divisions being exacerbated. There can be an *emotional* expense with the season sparking loneliness, sadness, and grief. Finally, the holiday can take a *chronological* toll, jamming calendars with events, parties, and other time-filling, energy-stealing happenings. There’s no doubt that Christmas can be costly. It always *has* been, ever since the very first Christmas when “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” But it’s not just the *birth* of Christ that’s pricey. *Following* Christ is expensive as well. The question becomes, are these prices worth paying?

The Cost of the First Christmas

Joseph’s *obeying* Matt 1:18–25

The magi’s *following* Matt 2:1–2, 11

Mary’s *submitting* Luke 1:26–38, 46–48

The shepherd’s *going* Luke 2:8–20

Simeon’s *waiting* Luke 2:21–35

Anna’s *serving* Luke 2:36–38

The Cost of Following Christ Luke 14:25–28