

***Mere Christianity***  
**Book 4, Chapter 9**  
**Counting the Cost**

**Questions:**

1. In **Matthew 5:48**, Jesus says: “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” What does this mean and not mean?

2. In **Luke 14:28-30**, Jesus tells us to “count the cost.” Why does he say this?

3. Consider and comment on the following statements related to this chapter:

“God is easy to please, but hard to satisfy.” (George MacDonald)

“Lewis believed that to use the energy of a lifetime to know and serve God is the most important thing a human being can do!” (Terry Miethe)

“Even though Christ’s goal is to help us reach, he will be pleased with the ‘first feeble, stumbling effort we make.’” (Miethe quoting Lewis)

“Most believers do not know how to live the Christian life because they have only a minimal understanding of their faith. They try to live their entire lives on the first-grade level.” (Meithe)

“You simply cannot become a Christian by accident. In order to grow, you must discipline your life in study, prayer, worship, and fellowship. Besides pride or selfishness, the two greatest sins of Christians must be apathy and willful ignorance” (Meithe)

“Study after study shows that the most effective evangelism takes place primarily via long-term relationship building and that the conversion process for an individual involves a period of, on average, two years of consideration.” (Amber M. Stamper; *Christian Research Journal*; Vol. 39/No. 2/2016; p. 61)