



## FCA Wrestling – Team Huddle

### Week 15: “COUNTING THE COST” (Commitment) (Luke 14: 25-33)

When you were a beginner on the mats, you recall that there was a lot you hadn't counted on. Dieting to get to your weight class was probably a shock to your system. The burn of staying in a wrestling stance for an extended period of time was probably new to you. The repetition of drilling technique may have taxed your attention span. The sheer exhaustion of your very first practice may have caused you to consider quitting that day. However, experienced wrestlers know what they are getting into at the start of a new season. Wrestlers who compete at the international level often relate that they haven't missed a day of practice in years. John Smith practiced the same stance-and-motion drill for six years solid. Champions commit to follow through on their training plan because they know it is necessary.

Jesus told his disciples that true love for God should ‘trump’ everything else we hold dear in life, even our own family, by comparison to our love for Him. He clarified this by saying; “Whoever does not take up his cross and follow Me, cannot be My disciple”. Crucifixion was the most extreme form of execution at that time. In fact, our English word “excruciating” today, comes from the Greek term, meaning “out of the cross”. By telling the disciples that they needed to bear their own cross, he was telling them to even be ready to give up their lives for His sake. Today, there are Christians in countries like North Korea, Nigeria, Iran, Vietnam, and Colombia where Christians are killed simply because they are Christians. ***Compare your own faith with that of Christians in the New Testament, or in these countries today, where living as a Christian has always meant living under the threat of imprisonment, torture, or execution.*** Why do you think these Christians would show such devotion? Is it possible that they are grateful for being forgiven for their sins, and are looking at the “big picture”?

**Jim Elliott** was a **wrestler for Wheaton College**, back in the 1950's. He actually wrestled in college just to prepare himself for the rigors of the foreign mission field. He wrote a letter to his parents during his first year in college, saying this: ***“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose”***. Jim was later killed, (while in his late 20's), by the Auca Indians on the shore of the Amazon River. Yet just a few years later, his young widow went back to that same area and led the whole tribe to Jesus Christ. This young couple understood what it meant to “count the cost”!

### Thought Questions:

6. How does your love for God compare with your love for other things (family, sports, entertainment, possessions, or what your friends think of you)?
7. How does your love for God compare with those believers in countries where Christians are persecuted? Should it be any less?
8. What ways are there to grow in your love and devotion to Jesus?
9. Is it possible that you are only pretending to be a believer? Have you really had your sins forgiven? Resolve this day to settle the matter between you and God.

### CLOSE WITH A SHORT PRAYER