

December, 2022



Counting the Cost

How much is too much?

Previously I told you about the Hindu background believer, "B", who has joined our Bridges staff team at ASU. He is amid a very challenging season of finding people to meet with about partnering with him both in prayer and financially. But this season has brought in another, more severe, storm front into our dear brother's life.

B's father, back in India, is in late stages of cancer, and B felt he needed to return to his homeland to tell his family, in person, about his decision to follow Jesus. Three weeks ago, he made the trip and for the first week he enjoyed renewing acquaintances and catching up on the local scene - he was last there six years ago.

Then he screwed up his courage to begin sharing of his new faith. Concerned about the family's response to his conversion, he thought his chances of getting a measured reaction would be best with his aunt, and so he broached the subject with her, first. But, her response was not what he had hoped for. She advised him to take his things and go back to the U.S. - and stay there.

B was hoping his father's health would improve some before telling him, so next he told his uncle and mother. They, too, informed him that leaving the faith of his family was not acceptable, but suggested that if he were to marry a Hindu lady before he returns to the States (he is nearing forty and still single - yet another source of shame for the family), then his religious indiscretion might be overlooked and he would not be shunned and lose his inheritance.

My mind goes to the parable of the *pearl of great price*, and the *rich young ruler*. The man in the first story was willing to give up everything he had, but the man in the second wasn't. Then I have to ask, introspectively, what would I really have been willing to give up to follow Jesus if it had been required of me back in my senior year of high school. And more importantly, what am I willing to give up, now?

Please join me in earnest prayer for our brother, B: **1) For a steadfast relationship with Jesus, 2) For B's witness to those around him, 3) For a softening of the hearts of his family to be tolerant of B's choices, and to even be open to considering Jesus, for themselves, 4) That B's current trials will be a powerful witness to students who find themselves being held back from Jesus by similar fears of rejection from their families.**

As always, your partnership is invaluable to enabling me to participate in what God is doing in the lives of international students here at ASU. Thank you!

Merry **Christ**-mas to you and yours,

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