



Followers of Christ, count the cost

We're not crazy, we're not famous, we're not known. We're ex-conmen and the people we conned were ourselves. We're liars and thieves, we're murderers and adulterers. We're our own worst critic. We brush away flattery from the world to embrace a rebuke from the word. The lights of the world don't impress us, we've seen a better Light lately. We don't care for fashions and vanities and vapours. We're not entangled in the world's love affair with itself, it's seduction doesn't work on us. We've been there and done that and bear the scars of our shame. We don't laugh with the crowd, but are full of sighs and cries. When the sun shines and the world rejoices we see only darkness and perilous times. We're the sinners who know it. We're the conscience listeners and feelers. We've had it with excuses we've heard from our own lips that didn't convince us in the end. We're the flesh mortifiers and the burden bearers. We'll never be great men of the world, just stamped on and shouted down. We've been humbled but fear being proud of even that. We're full of fear for God but bold as lions and ready for a fight without fists or feet. We're scorned and hated and ignored. We bear reproach and are misunderstood and accused falsely. We're sufferers and don't rejoice at the broken law nor are easily provoked. We are laid low like the branch that bears the most fruit. We sit in plain clothes, in plain rooms and speak plain words. We're thrust into darkness by the world but then we see the stars. We die a little bit every day to an old nature long dead. We don't want sin, we want salvation. We're not sinless but we sin less and less. We're heaven hunters. We don't care to lose this life, we're just travellers in the temporal. We're just sheep and we know it. We recognise a voice ours ears are tuned to because we first heard it when we were lost and cold and hungry and thirsty and lame and mute and bowed down and troubled and bound and deaf and exhausted and condemned; and the voice said "Follow Me" and He saved us from it all.