

## CHAPTER 5

## How Much Did It Cost Jesus to Preach the Gospel?

There is a great difference in the cost of first-century and modern American church activities. This difference is not merely that first-century culture and lifestyle were much simpler. For even then they could have exponentially increased the cost of church activities had they adopted our beliefs and practices. Fortunately, they remembered how Jesus evangelized and made disciples and followed His example. Oh, that we would do the same!

### The Evangelism and Discipleship Methods of Jesus

We have significant conflicts with Christ and His model of evangelism and discipleship. For instance, Jesus didn't complicate things. Preaching the gospel for Him meant opening His mouth and explaining concepts of sin, righteousness, and judgment, with the intention of turning people to God. Preaching the gospel for us too often primarily means a special event: a Sunday morning sermon, a city-wide meeting, a radio or television program, or something similar. All of these things have common traits.

First, they are all done by religious professionals.