



COUNT THE COST

by Julie Caldwell Competitive Edge Int'l

Suppose one of you wants to compete. What is the first thing you will do? Won't you sit down and figure out how much it will cost you in time, energy, and finances... and whether or not you can afford it? Otherwise, you will start playing, but not be able to finish. Then everyone who sees what is happening will laugh at you. They will say, "You started playing ball, but could not finish the season."

(adapted from Luke 14:25-33)

EXTRA INNINGS

- 1) Before making a commitment to play on a team, do you calculate the cost (i.e. time, finances, diet, energy, social life) to see if you have enough to complete it? If so, what things do you take into consideration?
- 2) Have you ever made a commitment to a team that you did not fulfill? What do you think that communicated to your coaches and teammates?
- 3) Psalm 15:4 says, "*The faithful followers of the Lord keep their promises even when it hurts.*" Have you ever felt the pain of keeping your commitment or promise even when it hurt? Explain why it was important for you to keep your commitment?
- 4) In Luke 14:25-33, we see Jesus challenging those who were listening to count the cost of being His disciple. In what ways did you count the cost when you decided to follow Jesus? And what does it look like for you to remain faithful to Him to the end?



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