

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LUKE 14:25-35



LESSON: COUNTING THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP — February 16, 2020

INTRODUCTION

14:21-24 The master or host of the great supper became angry when the people he had invited had many excuses. He did not give up, he sent his servant to call others to this banquet. The servant had done what was commanded of him, yet there was still room for even more to fill his banquet hall. ¹Not only did the host get other people to take the place of the previously invited guests by going out into the highways and hedges, compelling them to come in and fill the house, but he also shut the door so that the excuse-makers could not change their minds and come in. This parable paints a picture of God's abundant provision and invitation of salvation which was refused by the Jews and then offered to others (Gentiles) not previously invited. People today make the same mistake of refusing Jesus.

LESSON: I. DISCIPLESHIP IS COSTLY LUKE 14:25-30

14:25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,— Jesus has gotten their attention, and huge crowds followed Him, and at this time He turned to address them.

14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. If we go back to Luke 9:57-62 when the man that volunteered to follow Jesus and the men Jesus called to follow Him, they had excuses—one wanted to bury his father; one wanted to say goodbye to his family. And now there's a great multitude of people following Jesus. They had seen His miracles and heard His words, but they didn't know what it would take to follow Him; didn't know what it would cost them to follow Jesus. Jesus was not taking any excuses. This is a thought provoking statement for Jesus to tell the multitude— *"If any man come to me, he cannot be my disciple if they don't hate father, mother, wife, children, brethren, sisters, and His own life."* The "hate" word is not to mean detest, dislike, disgust, and abhor. But in this case it means not to show more preference over Christ; not to think more of others than Christ.

- LOVE CHRIST MORE.
 - Christ is to be first in a person's life; before family, and even before self.
 - Christ is to be put before family: even if one's family opposes his decision to follow Christ.
 - Christ is to be put first for His love is forever: before the companionship and comfort and pleasure of family and home.

14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. Jesus also said in Lk.9:23 *"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*



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- **TOTAL COMMITMENT.**

- **BEAR THE CROSS.** Carrying one's cross meant walking to one's death. That's what the Lord wanted them to see. Jesus did not call His disciples, including us, to do anything He Himself did not do. The cross is always an instrument of death, not just an object to carry or bear. No matter what suffering we endure because of our faith, Jesus is there with us, so, his peace and strength is needed to be content with what God allows us to do. And for us to be content with what God gives us to do. If bearing the cross is a symbol of death, then are we totally committed to die to self?
- **COME AFTER HIM.** A disciple of Christ comes after Him, as the sheep after the shepherd, the servant after his master, the soldier after his captain. He is to be the one who aims at the same end that Christ aimed at—the glory of God, and the glory of heaven. He is to be the one who walks in the same way that Christ walked in, and was led by His Spirit, treading in His steps. He comes after Christ where he submits his conduct, and follows the Lamb of God whithersoever He goes, not in your timing but in God's timing.

14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?— A builder's job is to get all the facts and measurements before even attempting to build anything. He has a plan and the estimated cost of the intended project he wants to tackle. The illustration Jesus gives to one whose intending to build a tower is that he first must sit down to see if he has enough money to finish it. **Two key phrases** are **count the cost** and **having enough to finish it.** This turns our thoughts toward discipleship, that is, one who follows and learns from the teacher, growing in the Lord Jesus Christ and equipped by the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News of Christ. In this illustration, Jesus is asking "*for which of you*" will give total commitment to this building—the building of the Kingdom of God?

- **COUNT THE COST.** When following Christ, you have to count the cost. Although Jesus asked some to follow him and some volunteered, it's still a choice. He wants them to think about it because of all He said to them earlier (about if they don't hate their relatives, they can't be His disciple). They have to get to the point that it will cost all they have to be Jesus' disciple. So, Jesus says to them and us that before you can get to the finish line, there is a process before embarking upon the job. He's asking of them not to take it lightly. Discipleship is costly.
- **FINISH.** When following Christ, Jesus is also asking whether you have enough (resources) to finish it (building the tower); building the Kingdom of God. Will you have the stamina which leads into maturity?

14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,— People do what people do— mock you! And they do it happily and say you're a hypocrite because you started a ministry and can't finish; people walk away. The world is cruel and some religious people are also, and you become discouraged. Therefore, Jesus is saying don't start to build something and then lay the foundation and then run out of steam to finish it.



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14:30 **Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.** Jesus warns those who want to come after Him. By telling them that, people will begin to say, what they don't want to hear.

II. DISCIPLESHIP IS NECESSARY LUKE 14:31-35

14:31 **Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?—**

14:32 **Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.** This second illustration in these two verses demonstrates two kings at war. The king being attacked had only ten thousand soldiers, whereas the king marching against him had twenty thousand soldiers. The defending king sat down and thought long and hard about his resources and the consequences. He was forced to think about the loss of life and property, even if he did win. This king had to make a decision. He was being invaded. He had to decide to fight against the invading king or to surrender. He had to think through the consequences both ways: the consequences of fighting or surrendering. If the decision is negative, then while the enemy troops are still far away he will send a truce team to discuss terms of peace.

14:33 **So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.** The point is clear: whoever the individual is, he must pay the ultimate price. He must forsake all, renounce, and give up all that he is and has, or else he cannot be Jesus' disciple. When a man counts the cost of following Christ, he needs to think about two things:

1. It will cost him all he is.
 - His heart: total devotion and commitment.
 - His mind: being permeated and controlled by Christ.
 - His eyes: watching what he looks at.
 - His ears: watching what he listens to.
 - His hands: watching what he touches and picks up.
 - His feet: watching where he goes.
 - His mouth: watching what he eats and drinks and says.
 - His desires: watching, controlling, and changing his urges and desires.
 - His effort and work: dedicating and centering all in Christ, using his efforts and work in the cause of Christ.
2. It will cost him all he has.
 - Family
 - Friends
 - Home
 - Job
 - Cars
 - Investments
 - Money

14:34 **Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?—** Now, Jesus brings salt into the mix. The disciple of Christ is to be salty, that is, be able to help take care of a need. The salt adds flavoring, acts as a preservative, melts coldness and heals wounds. He or she has to deny self—count the cost—put Christ first—be totally committed—forsaking all for Christ. Salt is no good if it loses its distinctiveness, its power to flavor, what it was intended to be used for in Word or deed. The Christian is compared to salt in this analysis, when it seasons and preserves. Just



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as discipleship is costly, discipleship is necessary. Thus, if you have lost your saltiness, your taste, and your strength is worthless. Then how will you restore your flavor?

- A half-hearted choice is worthless. It cannot season or penetrate; it cannot help anything or anyone.

14:35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. When salt no longer seasons or preserves, it's thrown out.

- A half-hearted choice is to be cast out. Salt that is worthless and useless is always cast out, for it is not good for the land (ground) or the dunghill (manure heap) for fertilizing—good for nothing.
- A man with ears needs to hear the invitation. Hearing spiritual truth is a choice which a man must make. He chooses whether to hear or not to hear the truth.

SUMMARY:

Huge crowds followed Jesus, and He turned to address them. Jesus speaks a thought provoking statement: *"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple"* (14:25-27).

God has a plan, and His way of how we even attempt to build a tower is that one must sit down first to count the cost to see if he has sufficient funds to finish it. Jesus is saying to the multitude, which of them will build a tower and will not count the cost? He goes on to say, people are looking, and are happy after you've laid the foundation. Then they will begin to mock you by saying, *"This man began to build, and was not able to finish."* Jesus continues to give another illustration: what king does not seek counsel first before he goes to war with 10,000 men, against another king who has 20,000 men? Or else, while the enemy troops are still far away will send a truce team to discuss terms of peace. The point is clear: whoever the individual is, he must pay the ultimate price. He must forsake all, renounce, and give up all that he is and has, or else he cannot be Jesus' disciple. Jesus says *"Salt is good."* However, when salt loses its distinctiveness, its power to flavor, then how will it restore its flavor? It won't be fit for the land, or the manure heap; but men will cast it out. A man with ears needs to hear the invitation when Jesus calls: *"let him hear"* (14:28-35).

