

The Parables of Jesus part 13

Various scriptures

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it." -Matthew 16:24-25

As we consider the cost of discipleship, what are some common things that compete and distract us from being fully committed to following Jesus?

Cost of discipleship: Luke 14:25-35

Context:

Jesus has now left the house of one of the leading Pharisees. Great crowds are following him as he travels on his way to Jerusalem. Discerning their hearts he turns towards the crowd and tells them a parable with 3 illustrations to enhance his message.

Parable stated; Luke 14:26-27

In summation, following Jesus requires making him our number 1 priority over _____ and over _____. It also requires that we understand _____ is to be expected.

When dealing with others and self, Jesus says, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother; wife and children brothers and sisters- yes, even his own life- he cannot be my disciple.'

Is this a contradiction from what the Word of God teaches in Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 5:25? What does Jesus mean by hate?

Hate in this context is the use of a type of figure of speech called hyperbole. This is an overstatement in order to make a point with maximum impact (Malachi 1:2-3). Jesus states something in a striking, unforgettable way that challenges us and forces us to think.

What is the main point Jesus wants them and us to see? Matthew 10:37

When understanding suffering, Jesus says, "whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

What does it mean to carry your own cross? Why do think he used this illustration?

*Accepting the _____ of our own self-directed life

* _____ to ourselves daily

*Be willing to endure physical, emotional, or social _____ that ensues
1 Corinthians 15:31

Jesus wanted the crowd to think through their enthusiasm for him. He knew there were some who were superficial so he wanted them to either go _____ or turn back. Jesus wanted to make sure they understood the cost of discipleship required their full _____.

***Constructing a building: Luke 14:28-30**

What are some questions we should consider before taking on a major building project?

In the parable, the project does not get finished and the people who see it in it's half-finished state ridicule the builder. Do you think this can happen today? What else could take place?

The point of this illustration:

-Look ahead to see the consequences of your visions and plans.

-How will your Christian life be built

Will it be half built and then abandoned because you didn't consider the costs?

What are some of the costs to building a Christian life?

*Social status

*M _____

*Separated from family

*T _____

As you consider the level of commitment, what are some things we can do to be sure our hearts are right to follow Jesus?

***Preparing for battle: Luke 14 31-33**

For those who decide it costs too much to follow Jesus, he provides another illustration. In light of the illustration, Jesus says, "what king going to war against

another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

What is the likely hood of a king going to battle in this situation?

Instead he is going to send a delegation and ask for terms of _____. verse 32

In the same way, as you and I consider whether or not we want to become followers of Jesus Christ. We must come to the understanding that it will take everything we have and more!

What does this illustration teach us?

*Don't move toward a battle you will lose.

*When we consider all the trials of life and the consequences of death, man by himself is no match. We too need to come to terms of peace with God.

*If you don't have the willingness to give up everything to follow Jesus, then don't begin. Verse 33

Notice the different responses to the cost of discipleship:

Luke 5:11; Luke 5:27-28; Mark 10:21-22

As you consider the battles you have endured and those ahead, where do you stand on this decision? What are some things you can do to prevent you from getting too attached to people and possessions?

Exodus 14:14; 2 Chronicles 20:15; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

***Man's effectiveness: Luke 14:34-35**

When we consider all that Jesus has spoken up to this point, given the demands and requirements of discipleship he would have us to know the importance of remaining effective. Our last illustration is that of the salt. In Jesus' day salt was considered an essential of life used for both flavoring and preservation.

In its origin, salt was obtained from evaporation from the Dead Sea then mixed with greater or lesser concentrations of other minerals. On some occasions it was possible for all the sodium chloride to be leached out of a mixture of salts so all that was left was stale and useless even though the physical appearance remained the same.

How can it be made salty again? In other words, once they mixed it with concentrations and it became ruined that was it.

*Unfit for the _____

*Unfit for a pile of _____

So it is with a half-built, unprepared follower of Jesus Christ. While we are in this world, if we allow too much _____ in us we are no different from salt that loses its flavor.

If you were on trial for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you? Would some of your friends be surprised that you are a Christian?

Luke 9:26

What are some things we can do to maintain our effectiveness as followers of Jesus Christ?

- *Make sure your allegiance to Christ is complete
- *Be constantly ready to die for the cause of Christ
- *Count the cost before you determine if you are committed to Christ
- *Give up everything and everyone to follow Christ
- *Retain the distinctive flavor of being an uncompromised disciple of Christ

What is one lesson you have learned today that you are willing to share with someone else?

“There are only two options regarding commitment. You’re either in or out. There’s no such thing as life in-between.” -Pat Riley