



FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

LEARNING FROM THE MASTER (JESUS CHRIST- OUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE)

STUDY 21-56 – THE PARABLES OF JESUS - Parable No. 31-The Cost of Being a Disciple

TEXT: Luke 14:25-35

LAST WEEK: The Parable of the Great Banquet(LUKE 14:15-24)

LESSONS: - The tragedy of the Jewish rejection of Christ has opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles. The blessings of the kingdom are available to all who will come to Christ by faith.

The Cost of Being a Disciple (LUKE 14:25-35)

INTRODUCTION

In this parable, Jesus lays out the terms of discipleship. There were great crowds following Him. Everyone loved the miracles, healing, and free food. Jesus was cool, the talk of the town, and the latest fad. But He knew their hearts. He knew they desired the benefits of what He did rather than an understanding of who He was. They loved His gifts, not the life He was calling them to. So He explained what it takes to be one of His followers (Luke 14:25-35):

From this passage, Jesus said a lot in those simple illustrations. He quickly put an end to the idea that He offered some kind of welfare program. Although the gift of eternal life is free to anyone who asks (John 3:16), the asking requires a transfer of ownership (Luke 9:23; Galatians 5:24). "Counting the cost" means recognizing and agreeing to some terms first. In following Christ, we cannot simply follow our own inclinations. We cannot follow Him and the world's way at the same time (Matthew 7:13-14). Following Him may mean we lose relationships, dreams, material things, or even our lives.

What does it mean to hate our closest family members? He is contrasting our allegiance to him (Jesus) in the strongest possible way. No earthly tie, however close, must take precedence over our allegiance to and obedience of Jesus. He is Number One—by far! No other person even comes close! Now this is no excuse to treat family members shabbily or with disrespect. Our responsibilities for our family still remain. But it does mean that following Jesus is to take first priority—even if it is painful, difficult, and misunderstood. Our parent's wishes don't come first; Jesus' direction and commands do. Our spouse's and children's desires don't come first; Jesus' direction does.

Carrying your cross means that we must accept the death of our own self-directed life, die to ourselves daily, and be willing to face whatever physical, emotional, or social persecution that ensues—and follow Jesus. Jesus spoke of a cross to get the people in the crowd to think through their enthusiasm for him. He encouraged those that were superficial either to go deeper or to turn back. Being a disciple, Jesus is saying, demands full commitment; nothing less will do.

From the two illustrations on what it means to count the cost:

In Luke 14:28-30; you must look ahead to see the consequences of your visions and plans. Will your Christian life be only half built and then abandoned because you did not consider the cost of commitment to Jesus? What are these costs? Maybe you lose social status or wealth. Maybe you must give up control over your time, your money, or your career. You may be hated, separated from your family, or, in an extreme case, put to death. Following Christ does not mean a trouble-free life of peace and joy. You must carefully consider the cost of becoming a disciple of Christ, so you know what you're getting into and won't be tempted later to turn back.

if you do not have the wherewithal or willingness to see it through, don't even attempt the journey. Discipleship is a decision that demands the utmost seriousness and commitment. Be very, very sure you want to follow Jesus as his disciple.

In Luke 14:31-32; Consider ahead of time whether you are willing to become his follower or not. It will take everything you have and more. Discipleship will figure in every future decision of your life. The will of God will be first in your priority from now on. If you do not have the willingness to give up everything to totally follow Jesus, then don't begin.

Jesus ended His description of the cost of discipleship with a breathtaking statement in Luke 14:33. When we become one of His, we cannot continue to belong to this world (1 John 2:15-17). We must make a choice, for we cannot serve both God and Mammon (Matthew 6:24). The rich young ruler, when confronted with that choice, turned his back on Jesus (Luke 18:18-25).

Concluding this parable using the salt as an illustration in Vs. 34-35 is to emphasize the essence of being a disciple just as the salt is good only when it can be used for preservation and flavour.

We cannot earn salvation by lifestyle change or any other good deed (Ephesians 2:8-9). But when we choose to follow Christ, we are releasing control of our lives. When Jesus is in control, pure living results (1 John 3:4-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17). In Jesus' parable of the sower, it was only the soil that allowed the seed to put down roots and bear fruit that was called "good." If we are going to be disciples of Christ, we must first count the cost of following Him.