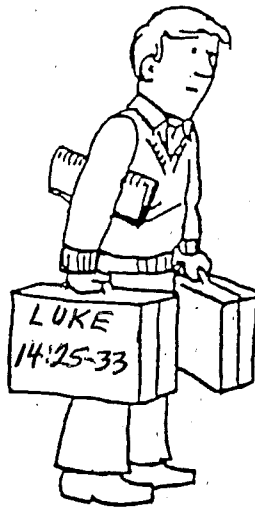


THE COST OF A DISCIPLE

(4 Tests That Separate The Serious From The Shallow)
Luke 14:25-33



- ◆ The Brethren Test
- ◆ The Bearing Test
- ◆ The Building Test
- ◆ The Battle Test

“Whoever does not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple”
(Luke 14:27)

Bill Kirk

"THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP"

Text: Luke 14:25-33

Subject: (4 Questions I Have To Answer)

Introduction

(God has made very clear some things in Scripture)

- #1. Gods one agenda for the church and its highest priority is to what? **Make Disciples!**
Matthew 28:19 "Go into all the world and make disciples"
- #2. Gods purpose for making disciples is to grow healthy believers (who will then reproduce and reach out to lost people).
Acts 2:46-47 "And the disciples continued in one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house...and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved".
- #3. Gods reward for making disciples individually, is personal growth that changes people.
(Discipleship takes people...)
 - ◆ ...From me-ology to theology.
 - ◆ ...From what can I get, to what can I give.
 - ◆ ...From what's in it for me, to what's in it for God.
 - ◆ ...From church hoping and church shopping to getting planted and growing strong.
 - ◆ ...From how do I feel, to how am I changed.
 - ◆ ...From pouting when I'm overlooked, to looking outward for someone else.
 - ◆ ...From feed me, fix me, and heal me – to equip me, train me and send me.

Fact: Disciple making will see people go from consumers to producers over time.

Question: Pastor, why are the leaders preparing now to devote much energy with making disciples?

Answer: Because making disciples is the intentional response of the church to the great commission.

Question: What is the practical result of small group discipleship, (likes Acts 2)?

Answer: Community will be developed through relationships so that people are no longer like ships passing in the night.

(And Most Of All)

- ◆ Regardless of church size, a member will always be a part of a smaller group that knows their name and misses them if not present. (So that)
- ◆ If a need arises, others will have enough proximity to be aware of it.
 - Question:** How many of you want to be a biblical disciple of Jesus yourself?
 - Question:** How many of you want God to use you to help others become healthy disciples?

What Is A Disciple?

- #1. A **Believer** (One who is born again of the spirit of God) John 11:25-26
- #2. A **Learner** (One who continues to pray, study, and grow in the Lord) II Timothy 2:15
- #3. A **Follower** (One who takes up their cross and obeys God regardless of the cost) Matthew 16:24)
- #4. A **Witness** (One who is prepared to tell others of the grace of God) I Peter 3:15
- #5. A **Reproducer** (One who is committed to world evangelism which is the end result of a healthy disciple making local church) Matthew 28:19

(The Question Today Is:)

- ◆ What is the cost of discipleship?

(Pg. 1 of 5)

- ◆ What are the qualifications of real disciples?
- ◆ What am I to consider before claiming to be a Christian?
- ◆ What's the difference between a self-serving Christian and a Christian who is a disciple?
- ◆ What is the measuring line from Scripture of spirituality in the church?
- ◆ Pastor, how can I qualify to be a healthy, growing, fruit bearing, joyful, grateful, low maintenance, non-complaining, kingdom minded disciple?

Luke 14:25-33 Has The Answer

- ◆ Jesus gives us the test or final exam.
- ◆ Jesus asks us 4 questions.
- ◆ Jesus tells us to consider 4 things in our desire to please Him.
- ◆ Jesus reveals who is truly spiritual and healthy on the inside.

Luke 14:25 Says:

“And there went great multitudes with Him, and He turned and said unto them”

Fact: Curiosity had attracted many lookers.

Fact: The fame of Jesus had gone throughout the land.

Fact: The end of Jesus' earthly life was near,

Fact: And Jesus wanted it to be known to all - what serving Jesus really means.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ He wanted no recruits under false pretense.
- ◆ He wanted no light – hearted devotion.
- ◆ He wanted no flash-in-pan enthusiasm.
- ◆ He wanted no one to carry His name unless they were willing to carry His cost.

Question: Pastor, what are the 4 tests Jesus gives that separate the serious from the shallow in Christian living?

(The 4 Tests Of A True Disciple)

I. The Brethren Test (V. 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”

Question: What is Jesus saying here?

Answer: He isn't saying what it sounds like He is saying:

(He Doesn't Want Us To Hate Anybody)

- ◆ In Ephesians 5, “Love your wife and husband”
- ◆ In Ephesians 6:1-4, “Love your parents and children”
- ◆ In John 15:17, “Love one another”
- ◆ In Luke 6:35, “Love your enemies”

Questions: What does Jesus mean when He says we can't be His disciples unless we hate relatives, brethren and our own life?

Answer: Jesus is very clear to every would be disciple. (He is saying)

#1. That no earthly affection must ever come between our love for Christ.

#2. That no earthly affection must ever be allowed to compete with Jesus.

#3. That no genuine disciple (a follower of Jesus) will allow someone else to detour them in Christian living.

Question: Why did Jesus use such strong language?

Answer: Because, when Jesus spoke these words it was easy to follow Him:

- ◆ But Jesus knew the time was coming, that to acknowledge Him would excite bitter enemies.
- ◆ Jesus knew that the disciples would be tempted to deny Him (and be filled with sorrow and regrets).
- ◆ Jesus knew that His followers had to settle it once and for all (before shouting “Hallelujah”).

Settle What?

- ◆ That no earthly relationship would be allowed to distract, detour or disease that relationship with Jesus.

Application:

- ◆ This is why a genuine disciple doesn't date a non-growing Christian.
- ◆ This is why a genuine disciple doesn't marry a non-believer.
- ◆ This is why genuine disciple doesn't party with people who compete with their spirituality and testimony.

Why Not?

- ◆ Because one of the qualifications of discipleship is to detach yourself from anyone (or anything) that causes you to compromise your spiritual growth.

Question: Does anyone or anything hinder you from identifying with everything that Jesus stands for?

II. The Bearing Test (V. 27)

“And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after Me, cannot be my disciple”.

Question: What does it mean to “bear your cross”?

Answer: The Greek word for “cross” is (STAUROS).

- ◆ The work stauros (cross) means: “**Any hardship you encounter in doing the will of God**”. (Repeat)
- ◆ The Greek word for “bear” (BASTAZO) means: “**To endure, receive, carry, take up and bear with joy and without complaint**”.

(Put The Two Words Together)

#1. Bear & #2. Cross we discover

- ◆ To be a disciple of Jesus means: “To encounter any hardship in doing the will of God – with joy and without complaining considering it a joy to follow in the steps of Jesus”. (Repeat)

(In Other Words)

- ◆ I don't resent the cross in Christian living.
- ◆ I don't resist the cross in Christian living.
- ◆ I don't grumble in the face of sacrifice.
- ◆ I don't run from hardship and sacrifice.
- ◆ I don't get blown away when crosses come. **(In Fact)**
- ◆ I fully consider the cross a part of Christian living.
- ◆ I fully embrace the cross as a way of life.
- ◆ I fully remain devoted to Jesus regardless of inconvenience.
- ◆ I fully follow Jesus whether it's sunny or snowing.
- ◆ I fully expect His cross to be my cross so I'm not surprised by its presence.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Real disciples endure hardship for the cause of Jesus.
- ◆ Real disciples live with power and grace to be sustained at all times.
- ◆ Real disciples allow the crosses of life to chisel away the flesh man and transform the spiritual man.

Question: Do you have any crosses in your life?

Question: Are there any hardships where God finds you today as you do His will?

Question: Have you resisted (or submitted) to the Lord when they come your way?

Question: Can you embrace the cross you have with faith that God's grace will sustain you?

III. **The Building Test (Vs. 28-30)**

"For which of you intending to build a tower sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"

"Lest haply after he hath laid the foundation and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him".

"Saying, this man began to build, and was not able to finish".

Question: Pastor, what is Jesus saying to every would be disciple?

Answer: That everyone of us are building a house to live in:

- ◆ All of us are building a life.
- ◆ All of us are building a soul.
- ◆ All of us are building a home.
- ◆ All of us are building a character.
- ◆ All of us are building an eternity.

Question: What is Jesus getting at?

Answer: 2 things we must consider:

#1. The builder didn't count the cost and left it undone.

#2. All that saw it began to mock him.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jesus wants no rash decisions.
- ◆ Jesus wants no one following Him for the wrong reason.
- ◆ Jesus wants no one to start and then quit when it gets tough.
- ◆ Jesus wants no one to make a lose choice in an emotional high.
- ◆ Jesus wants no one to sign up for salvation, to then say later on, "It costs too much to follow Jesus, I'm dropping out".

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Be converted yes – but be converted for what you can do for God, not for what God can do for you. (Why?)
- ◆ So that you'll not go ½ way and cool off.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Disciples are people who ponder, consider, contemplate, deliberate, weigh it out – this thing of following Jesus.
- ◆ No quick prayer, no quick decisions, no quick sign on the card, no impulsive high pressure tactics – but count the cost. (And ask)

“Am I willing to build my life according to the blueprint of Scripture”? (Or)
“Do I say yes to Jesus but then do what I want to do without His approval”?

IV. The Battle Test (Vs. 31-32)

“Or what king going to 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?”

“Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace”.

Fact: Whereas the builder has to do with building,
Fact: The king has to do with battling. (Or warfare)

Question: What is Jesus saying here?

Answer: The king had to make a decision:

- ◆ He was being invaded by the enemy.
- ◆ He must decide to fight or surrender.
- ◆ He has to consider the consequences of surrendering and the consequences of fighting.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ A disciple knows they are in a warfare against satan and sin.
- ◆ A disciple is taught about the world, flesh and the devil.
- ◆ A disciple is keenly aware of the enemy trying to sink his ship.
- ◆ A disciple is prepared to battle the powers of darkness in Jesus name.
- ◆ A disciple (who remains a disciple) stays strong in prayer and in the Word.
- ◆ A disciple doesn't plan to be spiritually lazy and undisciplined and coast into glory.

(V. 31) has these 3 words. “**Cometh Against Him**”.

Question: Have you had the devil “Come against you “ lately?

Question: Has the enemy come against your heart, your home, your spouse, your kids, your mind, your faith?

Question: Is it time to practice Ephesians 6:13 “Withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand”?

Question: Do you need to sharpen your spiritual edge?

Question: Are you willing to fight for what's rightfully yours as a believer?

Conclusion - Vs. 33

“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple”

(What Does It Mean?)

- #1. The **Brethren** Test – You allow no one to cause you to compromise your spirituality.
- #2. The **Bearing** Test – You bear the cross without complaint and let it work for you instead of against you.
- #3. The **Building** Test – You build your life according to the blueprint of Scripture.
- #4. The **Battle** Test – You do battle God's way, with the resources of prayer and the Word of God.

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor
(Pg. 5 of 5)