

RED LETTERS: Jesus Address the Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*—²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

PRAY

Lead In

- I have a question for you: **Are you willing to follow Jesus on His terms?**
- Repeat the question: Are you willing to follow Jesus on His terms?
 - Unfortunately, in our lifetimes, we have adopted this “Burger King Gospel” which advertises Christianity as, “Have It Your Way.” You can do this however you’d like!
 - This “Burger King Gospel” has crippled the church as a whole, produced weak Christians and tarnished what it actually means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- Goal: Our goal for this morning is to rightly understand the cost of following Jesus and encourage one another to follow Him well. We want to take off our “Burger King Gospel” lenses and come to the truth of what Jesus has to say about following Him.

What is a Disciple

- **What is a disciple?**

- “Follower, pupil”
 - The word of God has a lot to say about disciples. In fact, this word is used 269 times in the New Testament
 - There is a difference between a believer and a disciple.
 - All disciples are believers, but not all believers are disciples.
 - Being a disciple is the next step in Christian maturity after becoming a believer.
 - **V. 25-26 Jesus shares a hard message to the multitudes in regards to being a disciple or follower of Him.**
 - Jesus shares a heavy truth with the multitudes that no doubt caused some to turn back. Jesus wasn’t swayed by the multitudes to share a false message just to increase in popularity. Jesus shares the truth.
 - **This tells me that Jesus desires men and women to be more than fans. Jesus desires followers.**
 - Jesus doesn’t want your temporal infatuation, He desires personal intimacy.
 - Now that we know that a disciple is a follower or learner of someone or something...
 - Let’s take a look at the first of three requirements that Jesus gives in regards to following Him.
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1. Jesus Requires Superior Love (v. 25-26)

²⁵ Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

- Imagine what the people might have been feeling when they heard these words...
 - Maybe some were shocked. Maybe some were confused. Maybe some of the teenagers in the crowd were like, “Hate my father and my mother?” I’m on the right track!
 - No doubt this first requirement to be a follower of Jesus woke people up.
- **V. 26 What does it mean to “hate” your father, mother, wife, children, brother, sister, and your life also?**

- Jesus is speaking in regards to priority, quality, and quantity of love
- Hate
 - “Miseo” hate; love less
- Jesus uses this hard terminology to express a hard comparison.
- “My love for God is so good and so great that in comparison to this love for my family and my own life also, it looks like hate.”
- Alistair Begg “Our love for Jesus, our devotion to Jesus, our commitment and loyalty to Christ is to be of such forceful energizing strength that even our best love for our spouse or our earnest longing for our children or our genuine interest in our own physical wellbeing will actually be seen as total disregard or hatred in comparison.”
- Jesus isn’t saying that we should go around hating people. No! He tells us that the greatest commandment is to love Him and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.
- Jesus is speaking in regards to priority, quality, and quantity of love. He’s saying that if we have more love for anything else other than Him, we cannot be His disciple.
- **This is a hard message to hear, but I’m reminded that no earthly father, mother, brother, or sister took on the cross for my sins; Jesus did! He deserves the best love. He alone deserves the most marvelous love that we can give!**
- And as we first love Him as a follower of Christ, we’ll see that our love for others will be deeper and more meaningful and full grace and truth.
- 1. Jesus Requires Superior Love

2. Jesus Requires Exclusive Loyalty (v. 27-32)

²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*—²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace

- There is no room for half-heartedness in following Jesus.
- Unless you are loyal to Jesus Christ first you cannot be his disciple.
- **“Bear his or her cross and come after Me”**
 - Cross was an instrument of death
 - If you saw a man carrying his cross, he was a dead man walking.
 - These first century believers knew that a man carrying his cross had no more aspirations, hopes, dreams, or plans for his future. He was as good as dead!
 - There were no other options for a man carrying his cross. His destination was set. He was to die.
 - Jesus requires the same exclusive loyalty in the fact that you can’t bear your cross, follow after Him, and have it your own way. That doesn’t make sense!
- With the cross we die to the life we used to live. We are dead to self-esteemed thinking, planning, living and alive to Christ esteemed thinking, planning, and living.
- **Matthew 6:24**
 - 24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
 - Jesus requires exclusive loyalty, that’s why, in this passage, He tells us to count the cost.
- **V. 28-32 count the cost means to really really really think about this.**
 - Jesus gives two examples: building and warfare
 - I find it interesting that Jesus gives us these two specific examples. Building and warfare.
 - And I find it interesting because part of following Jesus is building God’s kingdom and engaging in spiritual warfare.
 - And there’s so many implications to this! I’ll share a couple:
 - IF we are to build His kingdom, then we have to let go of our kingdom.
 - The problem is, is that our very nature is inclined to build our own kingdoms. BUT, we cannot build God’s Kingdom and build our kingdom at the same time. We must be loyal to God’s Kingdom.

- IF we are to follow Jesus, we have to be ready for the Spiritual Warfare.
 - Our enemies the Devil, the flesh, and the world system will do anything and everything to get us off track from following Jesus!
 - You and I need to really count the cost if we are to follow Jesus!
- Jesus would rather you count the cost and not follow Him, than count the cost and follow Him half-heartedly.
- Just like the lukewarm church we talked about a few weeks ago, it's disgusting to Jesus to have one foot in the world and one foot in the will of God. Jesus would rather you be hot or cold.
- I encourage you, take the steps of faith to be full in! There is no more time to waste. WE all need to repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.
- 1. Jesus Requires Superior Love
- 2. Jesus Requires Exclusive Loyalty

3. Jesus Requires Total Trust (v. 33)

³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

NLT: ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

- "Everything means everything" money, stuff, family, everything that your heart clings to that gives you significance and security.
- This does not mean that a man should just sell all his possessions, or give away all his money or desert his loved ones and become a beggar or wanderer. But it does mean that he must give Christ control over his whole life with everything that he is and all the he possesses.
- Jesus requires total trust!
- It is wise to remember that following Jesus happens in the realm of faith!
 - We will rarely feel like following Jesus. We will rarely understand the path that Jesus is taking us on. We need to have faith in the Lord and in His word! Seeing His promises is what encourages us to give him our daily trust.
 - Jesus is worth of our total trust.

- Look back, has He ever failed? NO! He is a faithful God!
 - Are you prepared to give up everything?
 - 1. Jesus Requires Superior Love
 - 2. Jesus Requires Exclusive Loyalty
 - 3. Jesus Requires Total Trust
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The Reward

- **The Reward for Following Jesus (Luke 18:28-30)**

- ²⁸ Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.” ²⁹ So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”
 - **God promises to abundantly provide for you now and for eternity.**
 - The Divine Paradox of Following Jesus: Matthew 16:24-26
 - **When we lose our lives in following Christ, we find our real life. (The life that God has designed for us)**
 - ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
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RECAP: What does this mean for our lives? Application

- We looked at the three requirements of following Him
- 1. Jesus requires superior love
 - If anyone or anything or even your own life means more to you then you cannot be My disciple.
 - Today, do we see people not give Jesus superior love? What might that look like?
 - Cold faith, mundane religion, going through the motions.

- What might it look like to give God superior love?
 - Renewed passion in seeking Him! Radical obedience to His word above well intended family members's advice.
 - Giving God Superior Love is giving Him the throne over all your affections.
- 2. Jesus requires exclusive loyalty
 - Are you prepared to take up your cross?
 - Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.
 - 2 Corinthians 5: 14-15 ¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.
 - Today, are you loyal to Christ? Or do you have shared allegiances to your old life? Are you allowing your old nature to govern you or are you dying to those old things, picking up your cross and following Him?
- 3. Jesus requires total trust
 - Are you prepared to give up everything?
 - Do you trust Jesus with your most precious possessions?
 - Jesus is worthy of it all.
- Not to be a disciple of Jesus means to be a disciple of darkness and a servant of the world. And to be a servant of the world and to sin costs incalculably more than what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
 - Sin never pleases, the world wants to bring you into bondage and Satan would love to have you sit in darkness.
 - Not following Jesus on His terms will cost you the life Christ so desperately wants to give you.
- It's a big price to accept Him but it's a bigger price to reject Him.
- Following Jesus on His terms is a process of surrender.

- Have grace with yourself and with others! We are all people in process trying to help people in process.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to govern you and lead you in Jesus' requirements of following Him.