

The Parables of Jesus

“Cost/Benefit”

Luke 14:25-33

August 25, 2019

A Worship Series for the Summer of ‘19

Luke 14:25-33

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a 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 out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:25

Now great crowds **accompanied** (Jesus)

Luke 14

¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,

¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

^{21b} ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.

Accompany vs. Follow

Teacher vs. Savior vs. Lord

²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a 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.’

Cheap Grace
Jesus as Divine Butler or Handy Accessory

Earned Grace
Jesus gets me an invite, now I need to earn my keep

To his future disciples: (drop everything and) come follow me
To the rich young ruler: sell everything and come follow me
“Forsaking All Others”

My People

²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

Not absolutely, but relatively.

When others hold the weight of my satisfaction, both of us will be crushed by the burden.

Knowing the Love of Christ,
and Loving Him in Return,
enables me to properly Love others.

My Pride

²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

The Cross signified
Rejection and Suffering;
Guilt and Humiliation;
Death Itself.

Practically speaking it is putting to Death:

- My claims of personal rightness,
- My demands for glory,
- My claims to my throne.

So that, in and with Christ,
I can be Resurrected!

“The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with His death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ.

When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

My Power

³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

I can't win the war for the Throne
And I can't pay reparations
I just have to plead for Peace

Controlling our Cross

Comfortable

“I give money to church, when there’s some left after vacation. God doesn’t want me to be uncomfortable”

Manageable

“Jesus paid for all my sins, so it’s doesn’t really matter what I do. Worst case: he’ll forgive me.”

Bearable

“I’ll follow Jesus, as long as he doesn’t ask me to do that, or go there, or give that.”

“Desirable”

“Jesus is fine, but don’t over-do it. He’s a great teacher, but I’m going to look out for #1.”

Forsaking all Others...

³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not *renounce all that he has* cannot be my disciple.

“Awesome things in the creation have risen to a level of greater importance than our worshipful awe of God. And if you misplace your awe, you will be perennially dissatisfied...”
Paul David Tripp’s weekly email

God isn’t a kill-joy trying to keep us from being happy. He is desperately trying to wrench from our hands that which, when inappropriately elevated, will only bring destruction.

Why this is so hard? How can I do this?

I don't trust him with the reigns.

Is He really good?

Does He really love me?

I don't really believe it's worth it.

This world has a lot to offer, and
the next world seems so far off.

The problem isn't behavior but belief

Our definition of "costliness" is dependent upon:

- 1) How valuable we view what we are "getting"
- 2) How valuable we view what we are "giving"

His Payment

The Father has sent a delegation on our behalf,
His own Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit, to make peace.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

The Promise

Luke 14:14b

“For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” - Jim Elliot

“I gave up all for Christ, and what have I found? I have found everything in Christ.” - John Calvin

“But there must be a real giving up of the self... The principle runs through all life from top to bottom. Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.”

- C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

How Do I Apply This?

Believe:

What in this world
am I over-valuing?

How am I under-valuing
the gift Jesus is offering?

Receive:

Thank him for Carrying
Our Cross. Accept the
invitation to The
Banquet.

Relieve:

What do I need to be
relieved of that is
keeping me from truly
enjoying The Banquet?