

Theme: Following Jesus has a price: Everything we have and hold dear. He will take our life that we might partake of His.

Background: Shift in Focus – Teaching his Disciples

Intro: Earnest Shackelton held nothing back to save his crew from certain death in 1916.

I. Demanding Total Allegiance (25-27)

A. Thinning the crowds!

1. Is the gospel seeker “friendly”?
 - a. No! Not if you are looking for a “friendly” gospel.
 - b. Yes! If you would know what it means to have Jesus call you “friend”.
2. The truth is *hard* – and it is hard to hear. (John 6:66)
 - His road to Jerusalem? This is not a *parade*.
 - Leads to death – His and ours
 - Gospel truth *Often* leaves us uncomfortable

B. He will have no rivals

ASIDE: Do we take these words of Jesus “literally”? In context – yes.

1. Not family or friends
 - Can’t be divided/torn between loyalties
 - Jesus either has *first* place in your life – or *no* place
 - Anything else in His place, is *idolatry*

NOTE: We must be careful today that family and children do not become *idols*.
Once I learn to love Christ? I will learn how to truly love those around me.

2. Not even your own life (Ephesians 5:29)

- a. Bear the cross?
 - This was offensive!!
- b. Hate my own life?
- c. The gospel will *kill* you!
 - Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:5ff; He takes *all* of you, not just a part of you
 - So you may have *new* life
- d. Then we can truly love

II. No Turning Back - Two parables (28-33)

A. Eyes on the finish

- a. Willing to pay the price, see it through to the end?

Shackelton knew risks at the start. Prepared in ways that others would not, could not. Might not have been able to save those men. But he was going to die trying – not just waiting for the end.

- b. Don't start if the price is too high.
 - You will be worse off if you start and quit! (Hebrews 6:4-6)

B. Unconditional surrender

1. A fight to the death to conquer the "enemy"
 - No "suing for peace" with this enemy
2. Total surrender – to the authority and power of the savior
 - Renounce everything (all you have) – and everything you are – in order to gain Christ's Kingdom.

NOTE: A Carnal Christian? "Saving faith" but no life as a disciple? Not if Jesus is telling the truth.

C. The salt of the Earth (34), 35)

1. Losing its saltiness?
 - A very stable compound
 - Not a pure substance in Jesus day
2. Compromising one's commitment?
 - Don't water it down
 - It will be worthless (Matthew 5:13)
- 3 A life full of flavor!

III. Counting the Cost?

A. Jesus "counted the cost"

1. The goal? A holy people! A treasured, redeemed possession!
2. The cost? Everything!
 - The cross!

B. Will you count the cost?

1. The goal? To know and experience all that we were made for!
 - Life with purpose and meaning
 - Forgiveness of sins – and true freedom
2. The cost? Everything you have, desire, are, hope or dream.
 - Your life! Every part of it
 - The cross – by which we give ourselves to Jesus.

C. Life for life!

1. Jesus gave his life on the cross that he might give that life to you.
 - He takes our lives that He might give us His!
2. He held nothing back – that *we* might have everything he could give.
 - It is ours when we give everything to him.