

The Costly Love of Jesus

Luke 14:25-35; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 8-26-18

The Point

The Bible calls us to **rest in Jesus** for pardon and perfection, to **hope in God** for help and happiness and to **pursue love** through trust and obedience to God's Word. In this passage we want to see that:

- Loving like Jesus is not how we are saved.
- But loving like Jesus is essential and costly.
- It will cost you to love Jesus.
- It will cost you to love like Jesus.
- It will cost us our relationships, our agenda, and our possessions.
- It is essential to making a difference and being different.

Context

- The Truth that the Humble Will Be Exalted (11)
- The Question of Who Will Be at the Feast in the Kingdom of God (15-16)
- The Question of What Kind of Life Compels Sinners to Come to the Feast (23)

Love does not save, but it is essential. (25-26)

The question is:

- How is what I believe related to what I do?
- Are both necessary for salvation? In the same way?

Cannot Be My Disciple (25-27, 33)

- 'Cannot be My disciple' means 'cannot love like I love' and 'live like I live.'
- 'Cannot be My disciple' means 'does not have saving faith.'

We need to see that while we are saved by faith alone, love (like Christ) is evidence of saving faith.

Coming to Christ and Coming after Christ (25-27)

- We need to see a difference between 'coming to Christ' and 'coming after Christ.'
- We need to see a connection between 'coming to Christ' and 'coming after Christ.'

To fail to make these two distinctions results in either a kind of 'works-righteousness' or a kind of 'lawlessness.'

Coming to Christ as Belief in Christ

- Coming to Christ means believing in Christ. – John 6:35

- Coming to Christ means believing in Him for pardon and perfection. – Matthew 11:28; Mark 10:14
- Coming to Christ means believing in Him for help and happiness. – John 7:37; John 6:35; John 5:40
- Coming to Christ is something that all are called to do and welcome to do. – John 6:37
- Coming to Christ is something only those taught of God will do. – John 6:37; John 6:45; John 6:65

Coming to Christ (Faith Alone) that Results in Coming After Christ (Good Works)

1. Understanding of Sin and Our Inability to Save Ourselves (1-3)

- Agree with God about your sin. (**Romans 3:10; 3:23**)
- Agree with God about what your sin deserves. (**Romans 6:23**; 1 John 1:9)
- Agree that you cannot erase your guilt or earn God's acceptance with good works. (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:10-11; **Ephesians 2:8-10**)

2. Understanding of Jesus' Finished Work and What God Promises Us (4-7)

- Believe that Jesus is an able and willing Savior for you because He (the God-Man) lived the life we could never live, He died the death we deserve to die, and He rose from the dead as the only Lord and Savior. (Matthew 1:21-23; **John 1:29; 3:14-16**; 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:8-9, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)
- Believe that God promises you the forgiveness of all your sins through Christ and peace with God. (Luke 24:46-47; Colossians 1:13-14; **Romans 5:1-2**)
- Believe that God promises you eternal life (full and lasting happiness in heaven) through Christ. (John 6:40, 47; 17:3; Romans 5:21; **Psalm 16:11**)
- Believe that God promises you His Spirit now to be the help you need and His unfailing love. (Acts 2:38; Philippians 4:13; Romans 5:5; 8:28-39)

3. Understanding of What a Proper (Humble) Response of Repentance and Faith Looks Like (8-10)

- Call on God for mercy (forgiveness of sins – freedom from the penalty of sin). (Romans 10:9-10, 13; **Luke 18:9-14**; Acts 20:21)
- Call on God for grace (freedom from the power of sin and power to live to please God). (2 Corinthians 5:9; Psalm 5:2; 30:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Luke 11:13)
- Devote yourself to trust and obey God's Word with God's people for the rest of your life on your way to heaven, expecting many temptations and trials along the way (expressing this faith in Jesus through public baptism). (**Matthew 7:24-27**; 1 John 2:3-6, 15; 3:10, 23; 5:1-4; **Acts 14:22**; Romans 5:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Matthew 28:18-20)

Does my faith in Jesus move me to seek to love like Jesus?

What does it cost to love like Jesus loves?