

Title: The Cost of Discipleship – Part 3

Scripture: Luke: 14:31-33

Series: Bilingual Sermon

1. Introduction:

- a. The last two weeks have been fruitful for us as a church. We have discussed the criteria by which one can genuinely claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
 - i. Jesus himself gives us two criteria by which we are allowed to be called His disciples.
 1. A genuine disciple is one that loves Christ above any other earthly relationship or affection. A disciple recognizes the preeminence of Christ.
 2. A genuine disciple is one that loves Christ more than life itself. He is one that picks up his cross and follows Christ in the way of suffering and death. A disciple is not ashamed to be the offscouring of the world.
 - ii. We have learned from the Master Himself that unless we are willing to commit ourselves to this extent we cannot be His disciples.
- b. In this series, we have seen that Jesus is not pleased with a nominal, half-hearted Christianity, which was the Christianity of the crowd that was following Him. It is also this brand of Christianity, which is more prominent today. Those that redefine Christianity will find themselves outside the kingdom on the Day of Judgment.

- i. This sad truth has occupied our thinking as we have considered the warning issued by Jesus in **Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (22) On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ (23) And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”
- c. Last week we saw that in conjunction with the above teaching, Jesus calls us to weigh the cost of following Him.
 - i. The potential follower of Christ must be sure that he can finish what he starts.
 1. Jesus warns that those that start and do not finish will experience only mockery and ridicule.
 2. Christ is worthwhile and although the cost of discipleship is heavy, it is a small price to pay for gaining Christ and the eternal state.
 - d. Today, we will see the second parable advanced by Jesus in regards to the Cost of Discipleship. In it, we are beckoned to make peace with Christ while we still have time.

2. Verse 31: Jesus the Conqueror: 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?

- a. The king in this parable is not in the same position as the builder of the preceding parable.
 - i. That man, the builder, was free to act or not to act, to build or not to build the tower. The warning to him was that he needed to count the cost before he began to build. He needed to finish what he started. There is no room in the kingdom of God for those that start as disciples and yet, being pressed by the cost of discipleship, do not finish.
 1. The question of our first parable was this: Is Jesus Christ worth the cost that I must pay in this lifetime.
 2. If you remember, the answer to that question is an emphatic yes. Whatever we lose here, cannot be compared to gaining Christ for eternity.
- b. The king in this parable faces a completely different scenario. He is being attacked. Someone is coming against him with twenty thousand soldiers, but he has only ten thousand. So he must make a decision.
 - i. Will he fight or will he surrender to the greater force.
 - ii. Beloved, do not miss the point that Jesus is making here. In this parable, Jesus is the King with the greater fighting force. He is the juggernaut that cannot be stopped.
 1. This is a frightening thought for us to consider. Christ is promising that he will

come again and not in the same way that he came in his first advent. His second advent will see Jesus come not as the suffering servant but as the conquering King.

2. Consider the biblical narrative in **Revelation 19:11-16** Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. (13) He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. (14) And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. (15) From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. (16) On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
3. The unsundered that would rather make war with Jesus **Revelation 19:21(A)** And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse...

a. Jesus ALWAYS wins! No man, no people, no nation can defeat the sovereign God!

c. **Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able...**

i. By this phrase, we are to understand that in counting the cost of discipleship we must also count the cost of refusing to follow Christ. Notice that this king asks the question, “Am I able to withstand the coming King?”

1. Beloved this is a very good question for our consideration. Are you able to withstand the coming King?
2. Can you defeat Him who is sovereign?
3. Do you have the resources; the ability to defeat Jesus Christ?
4. Beloved, He is coming! His army is coming.

d. **...with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand:**

i. Notice the state of the matter. Notice the condition of your power. Whatever you have, Jesus has more. Whatever power you possess, Christ is matchless in power.

ii. Your best effort will end in an utterly humiliating defeat.

1. **Philippians 2:9-11** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Consider that even the enemy of our souls cannot withstand Jesus Christ. We read in **Revelation 20:10** and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

e. What are we to do?

3. Verse 32: Surrender: And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

a. Here we encounter an incredible truth. The sinner too must act. Neutrality, when it comes to Jesus, is impossible.

i. **Matthew 12:30** Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

1. There is no neutrality. There is no staying out of the fray. Jesus Christ is coming!

b. Notice that the king in our parable realizes the hopeless condition that he finds himself in.

i. He realizes that he cannot defeat the coming foe.

1. This coming king is not his friend but his adversary. He needs to change that relationship and he needs to do it as quickly

as possible (**while the other is yet a great way off**). There is no time to waste.

a. He does not want this coming king to fall upon him unsuspectingly so he acts immediately.

2. Oh that this would not escape our attention today. Today is the day of salvation.

a. **Hebrews 3:15** As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

c. What, then, should this weaker king do? He should become reconciled with God by surrendering to Jesus Christ. That is the wise, sensible, reasonable thing to do. He must surrender (**he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace**).

i. Notice two key points:

1. He **asks** for reconciliation. He asks for forgiveness for having started this war. He is the party at fault and must, therefore, make amends.

a. This is true of every sinner. We are and will always be an offense to God while in our sinful state. We are the ones that through our sin have started a war with God.

b. His justice and holiness have been offended. Sin must be destroyed.

2. He asks **for terms of peace**. What would you require of me?

- a. In terms of salvation: Must I confess what I am? Must I come as a beggar before God’s throne? Must I admit my inability?
 - b. In terms of discipleship: Must I love you more than anything else? Must I be willing to die for your cause?
 - c. If you desire to be saved, you must surrender to Jesus and accept His terms.
 - i. Salvation belongs to Him!!!
 - d. So beloved, the two little parables form one unit. The first teaches us to count the cost before we endeavor to follow. The second teaches us that we must come no matter the price.
 - i. We do not want to war with Jesus! The outcome is disastrous for any that would dare to.
 - ii. Jesus is nearing. Now is the critical hour.
 - iii. **2 Corinthians 6:2** For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
4. Verse 33: Invalid Confessions: So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.
- a. Wholehearted devotion, all-out loyalty, complete self-denial, so that one places himself, his time, his earthly possessions, his talents, at

the disposal of Christ, is what Jesus requires of disciples.

- i. Are you His disciple?

5. Benediction:

- a. **1 Timothy 1:15** The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

**Public Reading of Scripture
Revelation 19:11-16**