
Telling the Gospel to the Religious

Luke 14:25-33

What we are doing...

Thinking together about telling the gospel.

What we are hoping...

You will grow in your commitment to, conviction of and courage to speak the gospel.

Jesus Confronts the Followers

²⁵ 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.

There is a crowd who will follow...

Many people will follow Jesus for the benefits. Crowds are not a measure of true disciples...

There is a call to true discipleship...

This is shocking. Jesus calls them to true discipleship. If you are not willing to give up your family relationships, you cannot be a disciple...

There is a challenge to consider...

To be a true disciple, you must be willing to know, understand and pay the price. An evangelism that hides the cost and emphasis the present benefits is faulty, at best.

There is a cost to be paid...

Jesus is not calling people to a higher level for a select few. There are NOT Christians and then among them, disciples who take the extra step. This is what *it means to be a Christian at all!!!*

So one aspect of evangelism is to confront professing followers with the true call to discipleship.

Loving the Religious

Do we love our religious family, friends, co-workers enough to give them a Biblical gospel that calls them to true Christianity, to being a disciple?

The Keys

Listening for Christian “following” without costly discipleship.

Listening for religious talk without spiritual realities

Listening for reliance on works instead of grace

Listening for false or weak gospel understandings:

Psychologized gospel - fulfills me...

Social gospel - changes the world...

Prosperity gospel - resolves my situations...

Transactional gospel - decision gospel...

Our Goals

To be able to tell the gospel to religious people who are trusting their religion, not Christ.

Jesus challenging the Pharisees (legalists) and Sadducees (rationalists).

Paul challenging the Judaizers.

To help people really listen to their Christian friends and family members.

To help people know how to lovingly challenge unbiblical ideas.

An Acted Example

Russ	The one telling the gospel
Tim	A churched but unsaved person who has had an exposure to the gospel but is very confused.
Connection	We were in a church together. Now Tim is in a very poor, works oriented church.
Situation	We have bumped into each other at a café ordering and decided to sit down together and catch up.

Reflect and Respond

Are you a true disciple of Jesus?

Are you loving the religious people in your life?

Do you have the conviction and the courage to challenge false faith?

What is the cost?