

LUKE 14.25-35

AM I REALLY A CHRIST-FOLLOWER?

“*If you do not . . . then you cannot*”

If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his family—yes, even one’s own life—and does not carry his own cross and follow Me, and does not give up everything he has—such a person cannot be My disciple.

– Luke 14.26, 27, 33

LEADING UP TO NOW—

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as He made his way to Jerusalem. “I must keep going. . . for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!”

—Luke 13.22, 33

- ▶ “Don’t be a fool, enjoying life and disregarding eternity.”
- ▶ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning.”
- ▶ “I will come at an hour that you least expect.”
- ▶ “Make every effort to enter the narrow door.”

1ST REQUISITE—

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even one’s own life—such a person cannot be My disciple.”

▶ **Commitment that marginalizes ¹ every other loyalty**

“No one can be a true disciple of Christ, to whom Christ is not dearer than whatever else is dearest to him in this life.”

¹ to assign to an unimportant or meaningless position

“ We miss the mark when we put their development athletically, intellectually, culturally, artistically, socially before their spiritual well-being. We fall short when we spend more time in the car in one day shuttling them to games and lessons than we do in one month in prayer for their souls. By comparison our lives reveal that we hate God and love our children disproportionately—and that we are not Jesus’ disciples.”

– R. Kent Hughes

2ND REQUISITE—

“And whoever does not carry their cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.”

▶ Rejection of self-identity to embrace the Christ-life

“If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9.23)

The cruciform life: choosing to live a set-apart life, to live by kingdom values, to live with self-sacrificing love—to follow the example of Jesus in everything, regardless of personal cost

SCENARIO #1—

Building without a budget

Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?

SCENARIO #2—

Engaging in battle without considering the odds

Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one who is coming with twenty thousand?

3RD REQUISITE—

“In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be My disciples.”

- ▶ **Surrender that holds nothing back—whether out of fear, or for success, or for security**

“I have this day . . . been before God, and have given myself, all that I am and have, to God; so that I am not, in any respect, my own. . . . I have given myself clear away, and have not retained anything as my own . . . so that in the future, I’ll challenge no right to myself.

—Jonathan Edwards

AND WHOEVER DOES NOT . . .

THE PATTERN JESUS SET FOR HIS FOLLOWERS—

- ▶ A life that was *selfless*
- ▶ A life that was *sacrificial*
- ▶ A life of *service*

For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

—Mark 10.45



Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit for neither the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

– Luke 14.34-35

SEEING CLEARLY

ISSUES

2020