

Counting the Costs

Building a Tower, Making War

Introduction

1. Whenever men make investments, they consider if the gain is worth the sacrifice.
 - a. Is an education worth the expense and sacrifice of schooling?
 - b. Is a car worth the dealer's asking price?
 - c. Is saving another person's life worth putting my life in danger?
2. Every commitment requires this kind of evaluation: Are the benefits worth the costs?
3. If we are going to follow Christ we must make such an evaluation.
 - a. Every person who desires salvation must ask themselves, are the benefits worth the sacrifices that I will be making?
 - b. Is eternal life worth committing my life on this earth to serving God?
 - c. In this lesson we will examine four parables in which Jesus teaches us to count the costs of Discipleship.

Discussion

I. Luke 14:26-27: The Kind of Commitment Required

- A. God is very clear about the dangers of sin because He wants us to avoid it at all costs.
- B. He is equally clear about the kind of commitment that is required because He wants so badly for us to succeed in following Him.
- C. He shows us exactly the kind of commitment and the kinds of sacrifices we will have to make so that we can be prepared:
 1. If our own family will not follow God, we must be willing to choose God over them.
 2. 2 Tim. 3:12: All who desire to live godly will suffer.
- D. Luke 9:23-26: Only those who are willing to deny themselves and be fully committed to Christ will be able to follow Him.
 1. They must understand that even the entire world is not worth giving up the kingdom.
 2. Mark 10:29-31: Many different sacrifices will be required.

II. Luke 14:28-32: Commitment Requires Sacrifice

- A. Rom. 12:2: Salvation requires change, change requires sacrifice.
 1. Change requires that we give up certain things from our past.
 2. It also requires that we put on certain things in Christ.
- B. We must determine if unconditional commitment is worth the benefits of salvation.
 1. We are not investing a few dollars or a couple days per week.
 2. We are investing our entire lives to the service of God.
- C. Matt. 13:44: Jesus teaches us that the kingdom is indeed worth everything we have.
- D. Do you recognize the tremendous value of God's kingdom?

III. Luke 14:33: The Necessity of Commitment

- A. Rom. 6:16, 20: Before salvation we were committed to sin.

1. We gave our lives for sin.
 2. We were bound to it, we served it.
 3. In many cases, we put ourselves in danger just so we could practice our sins.
- B. Rom. 6:18: In order to have salvation, we must become fully committed to righteousness.
1. Christ is merely teaching us that, instead of giving our lives in service to sin, we are better off giving our lives in service to righteousness.
 2. Those who become Christians are freed from their sins, but they, in turn, become servants of righteousness.
 3. While sin only results in death, righteousness will result in eternal life to those who are truly committed to it (Rom. 6:23).
- C. In Luke 14:33, Jesus teaches us that without such commitment we cannot be His disciples.

Conclusion

1. We make many sacrifices for the things that we love:
 - a. Family
 - b. Property
 - c. Future
2. Rom. 8:18: The hope of eternal life is greater than anything in this life.
3. Is it worth giving your life for?

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