

THE ENORMOUS PRICE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 14: 25-35

- A. Lest anyone think that being a follower of Christ is cheap, Jesus makes it very plain that it is anything but cheap. The price, in fact, is more than many are ever willing to pay!
- B. Jesus issues three (3) consecutive and progressive calls:
- Come unto me. **Matthew 11:28** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. (NASB)
 - Come after me. **Luke 14:27** "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (NASB)
 - Come with me. **1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (NASB)
- C. Jesus tells us that there are several basic things we must do to be a disciple of Christ.
- v. 26 – The true Disciple will love Christ supremely (Col. 1:18 ...He is also head of the body, the church; ...so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. (NASB)
 - He must love his own father and mother less than Christ [v. 26a].
 - He must love his own wife and children less than Christ [v. 26b].
 - He must love his own brothers and sisters less than Christ [v. 26c].
 - He must love, and this could be most important, his own life less than Christ [v. 26d].
 - v. 27a – The true Disciple will take up his OWN cross and examine it in the light of the cross of Christ. Our cross can only be interpreted by His cross (Luke 9:23).
 - "We never touch the realm of the cross until we are suffering vicariously." G.C.M. See 2 Cor. 1:3-8; 2 Cor. 11:28-29. "pressure upon me of concern for all the churches."
 - Our suffering is the suffering of the sympathy with others. (Phil. 2:1-8 -- "He emptied Himself... to the point of death, even the death on the cross"). There's the cross.
 - Our strength must be poured out in order to help others. That is the cross.
 - vss. 28-32 The true Disciple will NOT count the cost nor will he appraise the battle.
 - There is no comparing Jesus to anything or anyone.
 - There is no bargaining between earthly loves and the call of Jesus.
 - The one hesitating in the call to the fellowship of the cross, cannot come (Phil. 3:10).
 - He is the Builder/ Warrior King. He has always had a trowel/ sword concept.
 - He swept into this arena to build/ battle and is depending on quality workers/ soldiers.
 - He announced this some six months prior (Matt. 16:18 "...you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.
 - God's revelation supports this. The Bible begins in a garden and ends in a city.
 - v. 33 - "So therefore" appears in the NASB. "Likewise" appears in the KJV.
 - There is all the difference in the world as to the meaning of therefore and likewise.
 - Strong's (3767)) lists it 526 times. AV - therefore 263, then 197, so 18, and 11, now 9, wherefore 8, but 5, misc 6. Its meaning can be -- then, therefore, accordingly, consequently, these things being so.
 - vss. 34 The true Disciple will fulfill his one purpose in life, salt the earth with the gospel.
 - vss. 35 A saltless, tasteless, tangless professor of Christianity can ruin a manure pile.
- D. Choosing Jesus is based on the severest terms imaginable. Do it, now! Whom will you serve?