

PARABLES - OF JESUS -

WEEK 2 – COUNTING THE COST

A **SIMPLE** story with a **SPIRITUAL** truth.

OBSERVE
INTERPRET
APPLY

Luke 14:25-27

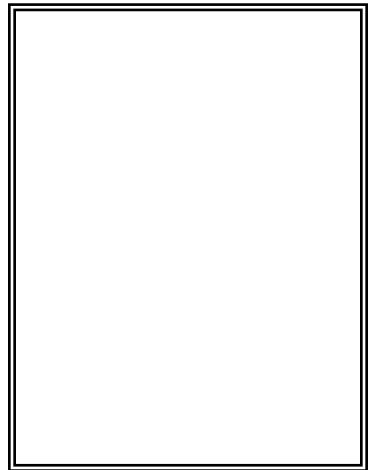
²⁵ A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶ “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

Salvation is a **GIFT**...

Following Jesus comes with a **COST**.

Luke 14:28-30

²⁸ “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’



Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

Galatians 2:20 [NIV]

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Salvation happens in a MOMENT...

Following Jesus is a journey that requires a FIGHT.

Luke 14:31-33

³¹ "Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³² And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away.

³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

1 Timothy 6:12-14

¹² Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. ¹³ And I charge you before God, who gives life to all and before Christ Jesus... ¹⁴ that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again

Jesus requires only what He has already done BEFORE and FOR us.

Hebrews 4:14-15

¹⁴ So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

SO WHAT?

Don't sacrifice what you want MOST for what you want NOW.

Colossians 3:1-2, 4

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth... ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

What is holding you back from absolute COMMITMENT to Jesus?

NOTES:

**“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose.”**

Jim Elliot



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How to start a relationship with God:

- 1) *Admitting* that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) *Asking* God to forgive your sins.
- 3) *Saying YES* to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

For Further Reflection:

:: *Who is the best storyteller you know and what story of theirs is your favorite? What are some deeper truths that you can identify in that story?*

:: *What has been the most significant truth for you out of our “Parables Of Jesus” conversation so far? How has that truth changed the way you interact with God and/or other people?*

:: *Read/Review this week’s parable [Counting the Cost: Luke 14:28-33]*

:: *Take time to explore this parable using: observe-interpret-apply.*

:: *Who do you most/least identify with? Why?*

:: *What does this parable reveal to you about God/yourself?*

:: *Pastor Justin said, “Jesus requires only what He has already done before and for us.”*

:: *How does this influence how you see what Jesus requires of His followers?*

:: *How have you seen this truth play out in your life or someone else’s?*

:: *What are practical implications for how we live on a daily basis?*

:: *What is one area that Holy Spirit is leading you to greater commitment and surrender?*

:: *Ask at least one person to pray for you & encourage you as you do it.*