

Build and Cost

Luke 14:26-33

Father's Day, 2020

The verses we'll look at were spoken to everyone, covering the topic of discipleship. DAY 5 will have some added thoughts on being a father.

DAY 1: Being a disciple: Priority of relationships

Luke 14:25 (RSV) Now great multitudes accompanied him; and he turned and said to them...

1. When one starts a movement the usual task is to throw the net as wide as possible. Advertising! Marketing! Instagram! Facebook! Get as many "followers" as possible as quickly as possible. What's striking about the Jesus "movement" is that He took the opposite approach.

Luke 14:26 (RSV) "If any one 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.

2. What do you make of this statement? What do you think Jesus means?

3. That is a shocking statement. We are told to honor our father and mother. We are obviously told to love our wives like Christ loved the church. We are told to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Jesus is using hyperbole. Hyperbole is exaggerated speaking to make a dramatic point. We use hyperbole "all the time." (That's an example of hyperbole). How does knowing Jesus is using hyperbole affect your understanding of v. 26? So, what does Jesus mean?

4. Jesus is addressing the problem of sin, more particularly the problem of sin in relationships.

5. Our sinful fallen nature "decides" what is most important to it, not to God. It decides our priorities and "needs." Whatever we deem as most important to our needs we elevate to the top spot in our heart. That can be a spouse, a parent, a child, and even our own self. Whatever "sits" in the highest priority chair becomes an idol.

6. We are now *dependent* on that idol coming through for us. We will put *pressure* on that person coming through for us. *Expectations* become a "*right*." When our needs aren't met we make *demands* we believe are *justified*. This is one way the bible thinks of "wickedness!"

Matthew 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold...

7. The end result is that love grows cold!!! Is there a remedy for this??? Re-read v. 26, above.

8. How will a priority love for Jesus Christ help address the other relationships in our life?

DAY 2: The antidote for the sin “virus” in us.

1. Our sin “virus” makes a mess of relationships. Let this virus continue on and it metastasizes. Sin’s tentacles grow longer and stronger. One of the chief problems of sin is even detecting it in ourselves. It operates everyday right under our nose in our relationships. What’s the antidote?

Matthew 22:37 (RSV) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

³⁸ *This is the great and first commandment.*

³⁹ *And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

⁴⁰ *On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."*

2. What are the two greatest commands?

3. How does Jesus describe the kind of love we are to have for Him?

4. In light of what we looked at yesterday about our own sin nature, why is it important to love Him as our first love?

5. Sin in relationships means that even without knowing it, sin chooses **me ahead of you**. First me, then you. The effect of this dynamic at work slowly erodes relationships. It can slowly suck the life out of your marriage. It creates distance. It creates questions and doubts: do you care about me?

Matthew 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold...

6. Here are some ways wickedness (self-centeredness) plays out in relationships:

- My desires first, then yours.
- My needs first, then yours.
- My opinions first, then yours.
- My ideas first, then yours.
- I get to talk first, then you.

7. Even when we think we’re being other-centered first

- My vested interests are MOST in play.
- There is always a payoff for me.

8. Loving Jesus more than anyone else frees our heart from perverting love into too much about me and not enough about you. When self-interest grows love lessens. To make this utterly maddening, I will blame you for our loss of the feelings of love. Loving like Jesus matters!

Eph 5:25 Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her

9 What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 3: Sacrifice of self vs. fulfillment of self.

Luke 14:27 (RSV) Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

1. Being a disciple is not just knowing the right doctrine or worshipping God. It is following Jesus as His disciple learning to live as He lived and learning how to deal with the sin problem within.

2. Jesus widens the scope of the sin problem. The culprit is self, and self must die a daily death. The cross was an instrument of death. This is the metaphor Jesus uses to instruct us on the nature of sin. Sin is not to be toyed with or trifled with. It is to be “killed.”

3. Paul’s teaching gives us another perspective on the same problem of sin.

*Romans 6:12 (RSV) Let not sin therefore **reign** in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³ Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no **dominion** over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

4. Our sin nature wants to rule us! What antidotes does Paul offer as help against our sin nature?

*Colossians 3:5 (RSV) **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

⁶ *On account of these the wrath of God is coming.*

⁷ *In these you once walked, when you lived in them.*

⁸ *But now **put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth.*

⁹ *Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices*

¹⁰ *and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

5. How do these verses add to your understanding about dealing with sin?

6. “Dying to sin” (“bearing our cross”) doesn’t mean that we put our sin nature to death “once and for all.” Dealing with our sin nature is a daily experience of “dying” to sin. It is dying to sin at the moment of temptation.

7. What strikes you about today’s devotional?

DAY 4: Count the Cost of discipleship

1. Being a Christian is not an “easy believe-ism.”
2. He tells the crowd to “count the cost” of discipleship. He illustrates this with two parables.

Parable #1

Luke 14:28 (RSV) 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?

Luke 14:29 (RSV) 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.'

3. The business world operates this way. Many home budgets operate this way. What is it I want to do? What do I want to build? What will it cost me?
4. It would seem to be “obvious” that any good businessman would weigh the costs ahead of time. Unfortunately, that doesn’t always happen.
5. In v. 29, what negative results occur to the man who does not count the cost? What financial costs, relational costs, and personal costs are likely to occur?

Parable #2

Luke 14:31 (RSV) Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel 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 an embassy and asks terms of peace.

6. The second parable involves decisions about going to war. What does Jesus say a wise king does before he decides whether or not to go to war?
7. What are the likely consequences if counting the cost ahead of time is not done thoroughly?
8. It is interesting to me that Jesus uses these metaphors because they closely resemble the difficulties we have in this life!
 - a. Parable #1: BUILDING. The most important things in life have to be built! They just don’t happen. Great marriages have to be built over a long period of time. A career has to be built over a long period of time. Your personal life has to be built over a long period of time. A family has to be built over a long period of time. Financial health has to be built over a long period of time.
 - b. Parable #2: WAR. The *battle with sin is a war!!* There are victories and defeats, movements ahead and setbacks. Dealing with our sin nature is a lifelong process.
9. What strikes you about today’s devotional?

DAY 5: Jesus' umbrella statement AND a Father's Day challenge!!!

Luke 14:33 (RSV) So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

1. What do you think Jesus mean by “renounce?”
2. He obviously does not mean “renouncing” as a blanket statement. No one can “renounce” food and water and live. You can’t renounce sleep and survive.
3. The context clarifies what Jesus meant. Jesus is teaching that nothing can stand in first place in our hearts except Jesus, the rule of God in our life. The alternative is to commit idolatry.
4. Idolatry eventually backfires. Whatever we put first in our life other than God will end up being destructive.
5. Consequently, when we put God first, our heart is freed to love people, become more and more like Jesus and to be a blessing to people.

A few applications for fathers on Father's Day:

1. Building a marriage and children doesn't just happen.
 - All the most important things in life have to be **built**.
 - Building takes a long **time**. It is the **long game**, not the short game.
 - Building is **costly**. More costly than you first imagined.

2. The costs to you?

a. Autonomy.

If you are married you are no longer “doing your thing.” You have to see to it that you and your wife make joint decisions which are wise and move you closer emotionally. You should be learning the art of deferring.

b. Pride.

This is not just a “business venture” of paying the bills and getting your kids through school. Your kids need to see how you relate well to a woman, how you build a marriage, how you deal with disagreements and conflict, misunderstandings and miscommunications. This is the real “curriculum” going on in your home.

c. Coasting.

You cannot “rest on your laurels.” You must continually seek God, humble yourself, and seek to be a blessing to those in your life.

You must continually move into your relationships and responsibilities. Let Jesus' closing words in this passage act as a warning and a challenge!

Luke 14:34 "Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?

³⁵ It is fit neither for the land nor for the dunghill; men throw it away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."