

Answers to Life's Big Questions

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 2nd

Cost of Discipleship: Building and Battling

We've been discussing some of the critical questions of life such as:

- **Existence:** Why are we here? Gen. 1:26; Jer 31:3; 1 Jn 4:7-10
- **Significance:** Do we really matter? Jn 10:10; Ro. 8:37; Eph. 1-2:10; 1 Tim. 4:8
- **Intention:** What's the Point/purpose? 1 Cor 3:9; 4:1; 2 Cor 5:20; Rev. 4:11
- **Expectation:** What does God want? Pr 23:26; Deut. 10:12; Mt 22:37,38
- **Price:** What will God's Ideal "life" cost me.? Luke 9:57-62;14)

In Luke 14 Jesus answered this cost question by challenging us to an honest realization/recognition of our Position "in Christ". (The nature of our relationship with Jesus)

- Have we trusted Christ as our Savior? (been "born again"?) Jn 3:3; 1Pt 1:23
- Are we currently trusting/following Him as our Lord? (Kurios: supreme authority) Lk 6:46

The Bible word for this realization is "Repent"! (Metanoeo to reconsider or think differently.)

Mt 4:17 *"Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand."* ...19 *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

20 *And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."* (See also Vs 21,22; Lk 5:27,28) The Pattern:

We must recognize/reconsider our position related to Jesus. Me first or God? {Lk 9:59; Ro 12:1})

Before we're really ready to Realign our Priorities. (aka: Follow Christ. Pr 3:5-7; Ro. 12:1b)

Luke elaborates on this in relation to Peter's call. (Lk 5:1-9) vs 8. *"I am a sinful man, O Lord!"*

You simply can't follow Jesus and stay where (and how) you are!

(Mt. 4:19-22; Lk 5:27,28; Pr. 3:5-7,6; Ro 12:1b)

Jesus spent the first 24 verses of Lk 14 trying to help the self righteous pharisees "think differently" about the nature of their position (relationship) with God.

Unless we truly "repent", we'll not be ready or even able to realign our Priorities as required to Follow Christ.

Notice the very next verses:

Luke 14:25-27 *"there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Is Jesus really demanding that we hate our families in order to follow him?

(See Eph. 5:22-→6:4 for one of many commands to love our families!)

What then is he asking of us?

He gives two examples to help us reconsider why we should "Realign our priorities" around His purposes and plans.

Examples of counting the cost from Luke 14

1. **Building (a tower).** 28-30 *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"*

A. The Consequence of miscalculation (failure) 29-30

1) Humiliation: *"and begin to mock him"*

2) Frustration (Waste of time, money, effort) Mt 7:13

2. Battling (an enemy) 31-32 *“Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, ... he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.”*

A. The Consequences of Miscalculation (failure):

- 1) Being conquered (*and possibly destroyed*).
- 2) Being compromised (*and probably spoiled*).

Conclusion:

Why use Building as an example?

- 1) God designed us to build something eternal! 1 Cor 3:9 *“... ye are God’s building!”*
 - a) Most prioritize their desire/design > God’s, and so build with only time in mind.
Vs 11-14 “If any work be burned they shall suffer loss...” (zēmio’ō: detriment)
 - 2) What might we “lose” by building/focusing on the “temporary things” of this world? Phil. 3:18-20

Why use Battling as an example?

- 1) The Christian life takes place on a battleground against powerful enemies.
Lk 22:31,32 “Satan (Satanas’: adversary) hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: ...”
Jn 16:33 “In the world ye shall have tribulation: (thlipsis: pressure, distress, affliction)...
 - a) God calls us to fight in this battle! 1 Pt 5:8,9 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, ... walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith...”*
2 Tim. 2:1-4 *“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that wars entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*
 - b) God equips us to overcome. Ro. 8:37; 1 Jn 4:4; 5:4; Eph. 6:10-18
- 2) The consequences of losing this battle are significant!
 - a) Being conquered (*and possibly Killed*). 1Cor 11:30; Ro. 6:16; 1 Jn 5:16
 - b) Being compromised (*and probably spoiled*). Col 2:8 *“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*

What are the benefits of building and battling well? (2 Tim. 4:5-8)

... “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me in that day. And not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

On “that day” will you have an “unfinished life?” (Or be a casualty of war?)

*“When I stand at the judgment seat of Christ, and He shows me His plan for me;
The plan of my life as it might have been, had He had His way, and I see;
How I blocked him here, and I checked Him there; and I would not yield my will,
Shall I see grief in my Savior’s eyes; grief though He loves me still?
He’d have me rich, and I stand there poor, stripped of all but His grace,
While my memory runs like a hunted thing down the paths I can’t retrace.
Then my desolate heart will well-nigh break, with tears that I can no longer shed.
I’ll cover my face with my empty hands, and bow my uncrowned head.”*

It’s not too late to have a finished and victorious life!

*“Lord of the years that are left to me, I yield them to Thy hand.
Take me, make me, mold me; to the pattern that Thou hast planned.”*

Alexander Maclaren (1826-1910)