**Cost of our Calling Part 3 “Renovation”**

**Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Feb. 23rd**

**Eph. 5:17 “Be not unwise but Understanding what the will of the Lord is.”**

**This requires that we respond to Jesus’ call to Count the cost of discipleship Lk 14**

**27 “whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”**

**28-32 “Count the Cost” (of Building and Battling.)**

**33 “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”**

**Counting the Cost (of our “Cross”) involves:**

* **Recognizing / Reconsidering our Position (Our Relationship with God.) Mt 4:17**
* **Realigning our Priorities (around God’s will). Mt 4:19; Mt 16:24; Lk 14:27-33; Ro. 12:1)**

**As important as these are to understanding and approving (Recognizing & Responding to) God’s will,, any commitments they lead to will be short lived unless we learn and commit to**

 **Renovating our Perception (Soul) Ro. 12:2**

**“Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing (anakai’nōsis: renovation)**

**of the mind (nous: understanding, emotions, will) That ye might prove what is that …perfect will of God.”**

**Jesus spent much of his time Challenging his followers to do just that!**

**He chose a mountain for his first public service and in that message, challenged his disciples to renovate their thinking. In fact, His teaching was so radical that when he was finished the people were “astonished at his doctrine, for he taught them as one having authority” Mt 7:28,29**

**Renovation of our Perception (Soul) involves Challenging and Changing our thinking *(about God and Ourselves.)* Notice how He did this:**

**1. In Mt 5 Jesus challenged their thinking with:**

 **A. The “Blessed” Beatitudes vs 3-12**

 **B. The call to commoners “salt and light” 14-16**

 **C. The standard and sanctity of the law 17-20 “I say…that except your righteousness shall exceed the**

 **righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”**

 **D. Revealing the “heart” of God’s law on:**

 **1) Killing, anger, hate (21-26)**

 **2) Adultery (27-32)**

 **3) Swearing (33-37)**

 **4) Responding to being wronged (with love). (38-47)**

**Closing this chapter with: “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father …in heaven is perfect.” Vs 48**

 **2. In Mt 6 He challenges their thinking by Revealing God’s heart about:**

 **A. Hypocrisy and sincerity in:**

 **1) Our Giving (1-3)**

 **2) Our Fasting (16-18) (Fasting is actually about our Priorities {Isaiah 58})**

 **3) Our Praying (4-15)**

 **B. Temporary vs Eternal Treasures (19-33)**

 **and their effect on and relationship to:**

 **1) Our hearts. (vs 21-23)**

 **2) Our real master (24-25)**

 **3) Our anxieties. (25-32) “why take ye thought..?” (merimnaō: to be anxious about)**

**Vs 33 “But Seek ye first the Kingdom of God … and all these things shall be added unto you.”**

**3. In Mt. 7 Jesus challenges their (our) thinking about:**

 **A. False (selfish) perceptions and Judgments. 1-6**

 **B. Passionate, powerful prayer. 7-11**

 **C. The whole point of the law 12**

 **E. Recognizing which path we’re on. Vs 13-14**

 **F. The influence of False teachers (15-20) *and False (misplaced) Faith. (*21-23)**

 **1) “Religious but Wrong.” Mt 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father …Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, cast out devils in thy name, and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

**And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Is. 53:6)**

 **a) Until we realize that we’re lost (Is. 55:6-8) *we won’t truly trust Christ to Save us.***

 **b) It’s more “natural” to trust our reformation *than God’s Redemption and transformation*.**

 **John 5:39,40 “Search the scriptures; for in them (the “rules”) ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they**

 **which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”**

 **G. Notice how Jesus concludes his 1st message**

 **1) Affirming: Mt 7:24 “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto**

 **a wise man, which built his house upon a rock 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds**

 **blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. “ (1Cor 3:9-11; Heb 11:1,6)**

 **2) Forewarning: False Faith produces False Hope**

 **a) Built (beautiful?), but baseless. VS 26,27 “And every one that heareth these sayings of mine,**

 **and doeth them not, (They recognize the truth, But don’t really respond to it.) James 1:22**

 **shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:”**

 **b) Built to impress, but not protect/sustain vs 27 “the foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:**

 **And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell:**

 **and great was the fall of it.”**

**Conclusion:**

 **When Jesus saw the multitude following him, he Challenged their Commitment by choosing a mountain for his message. Then he challenged their thinking!**

***They were responsible for Changing it!* Jesus Revealed God’s heart (the truth), *They were responsible to Respond to it!* This is still true of Him and of us today!**

**“Understanding what the will of the Lord is” Requires that we recognize and respond to Jesus’ call to:**

**1. Reconsider our Position (relationship) with God. Mt 4:17**

**2. Realign our Priorities around God. Mt 4:19; Ro 12:1 “present yourselves a living sacrifice”**

**3. Renovate our Perception about God. Ro. 12:2 “Be not conformed to this world but be ye**

**transformed by the renewing (anakai’nōsis: renovation) of the mind (nous: understanding, emotions, will)**

**That ye might prove (dokimazo: test and approve) what is that Good (agathos: beneficial) and acceptable (euar’estos: fully agreeable) and perfect (teleios: complete, the goal)**

**will (thel’ēma: purpose, pleasure) of God.” (See Rev. 4:11; Heb 11:6)**

**Application:**

**Jesus closed his first message with illustrating wisdom and folly based on what type of foundation we build our lives on. Mt 7:24-27**

* **What foundation are most building on? (vs 22)**
* **What foundation can survive the trials of life and the transition to eternity?**

 **1 Cor 3:9-11; Heb. 11:1**

* **Would Jesus consider you *(and what you’re building your life on and for)***

**Wise or foolish?**