

Sermon 82: A Disciple's Enduring Commitment: Luke 14:25-35

Text: Luke 14:25-35 "And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 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. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 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, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.."

Summary: Genuine faith in Christ produces an enduring commitment that puts Him first.

Proposition: God wants us to have an enduring faith that puts Him first.

Introduction: The order of faith in Christ and Christian discipleship

- **What is a disciple:** A disciple is a follower of Christ.
- **How does someone become a disciple:** Someone becomes a disciple, when under the conviction of the Holy Spirit he turns to Christ in childlike faith trusting in His redemptive work alone, and as a new creature with new passions and convictions purposes to wholeheartedly follow Christ.
- **What must take place in someone's heart for them to be an enduring disciple of Christ?**
 - **A confrontation:** People must be confronted with God's law, their inability to meet God's perfect standard of righteousness, and Christ's redemptive work.
 - **Repentance:**
 - Our sin
 - Christ's person and work
 - The exclusivity of the gospel
 - **Faith:** Simple trust in the death, resurrection, and righteousness of Christ.
 - **Convictional resolve:**
 - **Repentance:** Our worldview has been radically changed.

- **Regeneration:** We are now spiritually alive with new passions and abilities.
- **Indwelling:** The Spirit is now our Comforter.
- **Persistence:** The Spirit works through the word to continually strengthen and mature our faith when it is tested.

Truth 1: Priority: Christ must be our highest priority 14:26, 33 "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...likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple..."

- **Christ was not teaching His disciples to harbor or justify animosity:**
 - **We are commanded to honor our parents: Matthew 19:19** "Honor thy father and thy mother..."
 - **We are commanded to love our neighbors: Matthew 19:19** "Love thy neighbor as thyself..."
 - **We are commanded to love our enemies: Luke 6:27** "Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you..."
- **There is a clear order to these commands:**
 - **The Law: Mark 12:30-31** "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these..."
 - **Christ's example:**
 - **He prioritized His Father's will over His mother's will: Luke 2:49-50** "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying..."
 - **He prioritized His Father's will over His family's will: Matthew 12:46-50** "While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother..."
 - **He prioritized His Father's will over His mother's will: John 18:25-27** "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of

Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home..."

- **A correct understanding of Christ's statement is bound to the flow of the context:**
 - **Prioritize God's Kingdom over your daily concerns: Luke 12:22; 31; 34** "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on...But rather seek ye the kingdom of God...where your treasure is, there will your heart be also..."
 - **Prioritize Christ over your family relations: Luke 12:52-53** "From henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law..."
 - **Prioritize the Gospel over all temporal pursuits: Luke 14:18** "They all with one consent began to make excuse..."
- **Christ must be our highest priority in the same way that the will of the Father was His highest priority:**

Truth 2: Identification: Our identity must be entirely lost in Him:

14:27 "Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple..."

- **The cross was not only an instrument of death:**
 - It was meant to instill terror.
 - It was meant to humiliate.
 - It was meant to identify someone as cursed by the state.
- **This statement anticipates three facts:**
 - **First: Christ was going to go to the cross: Matthew 16:19-21** "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day..."
 - **Second: His followers would be in danger of the same fate, through their identity with Him: John 15:18-21** "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you...Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you..."

- **Third: The Christian's most significant identification is rooted in his union with Christ:**
 - **Galatian 3:26-29** "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise..."
 - **Colossians 3:10-11** "You have put on the new man...Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all..."
 - **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God...And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God..."

Truth 3: Calculation: Faith in Christ and the discipleship that follows that faith begins with careful calculation 14:28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"

- **Going back to our introduction:**

- **There must be a confrontation:**
 - We must be confronted with God's law and our inability to meet His perfect standard of righteousness.
 - We must be exposed to His redemptive work.
 - The Holy Spirit must convince us of the weight of these facts.
- **Repentance describes the calculation side of faith in Christ:**
 - Our souls must feel the weight of our sin and realize we have an inescapable problem.
 - We must see the case that scripture makes regarding the person and work of Christ and realize that only pride keeps us from trusting in Him alone.
 - **John 14:6** We realize he is: "The way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Him..."
 - **Acts 4:12** We realize that: "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved..."

- **1 Timothy 2:5** We realize there is only: "One God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..."
- **Acts 17:30** We realize that God: "Now commandeth all men every where to repent..."
 - **We must make a calculated choice that will forever change our eternal destiny and will change the course of our lives.**
- **In the same way someone calculates before:**
 - Starting a building project, we calculate and choose...
 - Going to war, we calculate and choose...

Truth 4: Endurance: A careless calculation will not produce an enduring commitment 14:30 "This man began to build, and was not able to finish..."

- **Genuine faith that produces an enduring commitment to Christ has three facets:**
 - **Will:** Faith is a decision, but not just a decision.
 - **Intellect:** It is a decision built on facts, but not just an academic understanding of those facts.
 - **Emotion:** It is a decision built on facts that are accompanied with conviction.
- **It is accompanied with regeneration and the indwelling of the Spirit.**
- **A perfect illustration:**
 - **John 8:31** "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free..."
 - **John 6:63-69** "There are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God..."

Truth 5: Quality: God wants committed disciples: 14:34-35 "If the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear..."

- **His redemption is a complete redemption:**

- He has dealt with our sin debt.
- He has given us everything in Christ so we can grow into Christlikeness.
- He has promised that nothing can shake His ultimate purpose to give us all things.
- **During this time, He has left us in the world to be distinct and to point people to Himself:**
 - We are the salt of the earth.
 - We are here to function with a distinctiveness that is only possible of true Christians.

Final Thoughts:

- **First: We need to understand the concept of genuine faith.**
 - It is not a casual or academic assent to the fact of the gospel.
 - Genuine faith is connected to a conviction regarding the person and work of Christ, and a wholehearted dependence upon it.
- **Second: We need to ask ourselves if we have genuinely placed our faith in Christ.**
 - If not, what is keeping us from trust Christ as our Savior right now?
- **Third: We need to ask ourselves if our identity has been lost in Him.**
 - Do people associate us with Christ, when they observe what we do, how we think, and what we love?
 - Do those who love Christ feel drawn to us and those who hate Him feel uncomfortable in our presence?
- **Fourth: We need to act upon this conviction with an enduring wholehearted commitment to Christian discipleship.**
 - Do we live as if He is Lord over all?
 - Do we put Him first in our lives without exception.
- **Fifth: We need to live lives that are distinctly Christian:**
 - Are we functioning in the capacity that God has created us to?
 - Are we functioning as salt in a decaying world?