

3 Lessons

- This message is a blend of personal experiences & stories + some of Jesus' teachings from the Gospel of Luke
- Hard to create a message that is cohesive and tie up in a neat bow, when there is so much that I've learned these past 5 years!
- Lessons are unique and distinct. Hoping 1 out of the 3 lessons connects with where you are sitting today

The 1st Lesson I have learned is that:

There is a Cost to Discipleship

Luke 14:28-32

- There is a difference between leading yourself and leading others in life
- **Story: Middle Fingers** → show you who I was as a young leader on this journey and how far I have come
- Element Youth 1 y.a. → big seasonal transition. Knew this lesson was not just for them. For all of us. God brought this story & scripture back to me
- In Luke 14, Jesus lays out a roadmap for both leading yourself & leading others
- Two figures: 1)Disciple/Man/Woman 2)King
- 1) D/M/W: Trying to build a tower versus 2) King: Commanding 10k soldiers
- BOTH "sit down" BOTH "count the cost"
- What do you mean "sit down?" → there is power in the pause
- What do you mean "count the cost" → I taught our Element Youth, it's not always the big fork in the road decisions that matter. It's the thousand tiny little rules that live within us, that we interact with each and every day, that many of us have been in the habit of breaking. Breaking those thousand tiny little rules has consequences, there is a cost.
- I think that's why in this same section Jesus challenges us by putting the two figures side by side.
- We all have to decide what role to play on this side of eternity → counting coins to build a tower OR counting soldiers to fight a war

The 2nd Lesson I have learned is:

To Let the Children Come

Luke 18:15-17

- Section header from Luke Ch. 18 → could also be called, recovering our child-like faith
- For those of you who don't know me, I have had a unique front row seat as I have watched the next generation of Element grow from EKids to Element Youth
- At the same time, I have spent these past 5 years sorting out the past wounds and experiences of my childhood. What a beautiful and strange journey!

- Verse 15: “now they were bringing even infants to Jesus, so that he might touch them.” → Begs the question, Why did the infants need Jesus’ touch? Because the kids needed healing!
- You might think, my kid is fine! Or you might be thinking, why are we talking about kids? Cullen has to know many of us don’t have them yet! He doesn’t even have kids yet!
- And I would ask you, How much time do you spend talking about your childhood? Processing experiences and events from your childhood? Do you get flashbacks? Do you ever wonder why it feels like the 5 year old version of you is pulling the levers of your emotions? I’ll leave those questions with you...
- The previous bullet point proves that our kids got stuff. Kids in general have stuff they are going through but won’t be able to process for many years.
- So it’s also true that we (adults, big kids) got stuff!
- “And when the disciples saw parents bringing the infants, they rebuked them!”
- We’ve all been the disciples here... we might think we have it all figured out.
- Because we serve and go to meetings and tithe and pray and read our Bibles (and go through the motions) we start taking up the position of getting to decide who gets a touch from Jesus.
- We are all “disciples” here. I am first in line. I say this to myself and I say this to you... stop with all the motions and all the routines!!!
- Verse 17: “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”
- So HOW do we do this? Well you can look at the young people of Element Church!
- Story: worshipping together @ the Kellogg Center, together, up front to encourage those standing behind us. There is something about seeing a young person worship.
- AND many of you will need to start or continue the journey of sorting out the past and walking through your childhood with Jesus
- There is power in the pause, take this summer season to focus on this area of your life, involve Jesus in the pain of the past and see what happens.

The 3rd and final lesson I have learned:

Jesus is Watching Me

Story: Picnic Table w/Pastor Scott

- God has a picnic table setup for each and every one of us
- What do you mean picnic table? Do I need to email Pastor Scott and put a basket together? LOL no! → Picnic tables are like Kairos moments
- Article written by Pastor Mark Batterson titled “Kairos Moments”
- (Greek) Kairos refers to the opportune time. Chronos is quantitative; it counts minutes. Kairos is qualitative; it captures moments. It’s the critical moment or the appointed time—“for such a time as this.” (Esther 4:14) It’s carpe diem, “seize the day.”

- Kairos is an archery term that denotes an arrow that is fired with sufficient force to penetrate the target. Better yet, it's the archer's paradox. Logic suggests that an arrow be aimed right at a target. But if it's a long distance away, a seasoned archer knows that a vast array of variables will affect the flight path. The arrow must actually be aimed off target in order to hit the target. The ability to evaluate those variables is kairos.
- **Personal testimony:** Addiction → Sneaking into church → Ministry → Marriage → Missionary
- For so long → I felt like my life was always aimed off target, but all along God had me aimed off target, in order to hit the target. The arrow landed that day on that picnic table...

Salvation

- STEP 1: Say yes to Jesus
- You are not here by mistake. This is not random chance.
- The God that I know does not gamble with the lives of his children.
- You might be sitting at a picnic table right now and not even know it. It's possible the arrow has been released and today is your day.
- Pray with me.

Thank you → Worship

- Reflect on the direction of your life → Where is your arrow aimed?
- Reflect on the picnic table moments that have brought you to the present day.
- AND as we go throughout this Sunday and this Summer season, let's remember to : Count the cost. Recover your child like faith.& MOST OF ALL remember that He is watching you.
- Let's go to God with our worship