

Luke 14:15-35

Answering the Call Pt. 2

Image Church // The Gospel of Luke: Inverted Kingdom Wk. 23

[VAMP] Prayer Time for Afghanistan, Haiti, & Lebanon

Image Family- as you know it has been an intense week in our world with the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan...

- There are families fearing for their lives... There are women and girls who are scared to death, being taken and trafficked... These are fellow Image Bearers-people made in the Image of God who are experiencing horrific realities...
- In addition to that there are many brothers and sisters in Christ over there, church planters, missionaries... There are churches that have been established... They are running for their life... Others have had to leave their churches behind as they flee the country...
- This is a horrific situation...

Beyond Afghanistan you have Haiti who's experience a horrific earthquake (I've been there twice- the impact there is massive)... And Lebanon is on fire literally and politically...

- Believers there advancing the gospel...

We just want to pause this morning and pray for our world right now... We need to anchor our hope and anchor our faith this morning and we need to pray for those who are among the devastation that's unfolding...

Introduction [Start sermon clock]

Alright, **grab your bibles and turn to Luke 14**- we're going to finish up chapter 14 this morning... *I promise!*

I hope you're doing well, hey listen if you're **NEW** with us and want to get **more information** I want to invite you to stop by the **Connection Center**...

Also, **if you want to join in on what we're doing here at Image Church**, we would love to help you take a next step, and you can do that by stopping by our **connection center** right outside!

- It's our one stop shop for everything...

Well, we've been on this journey together through the **gospel of Luke** and we've been looking at the life and ministry of Jesus, and talking about the implications that it has on our lives...

And here's the consistent thing that we see from the life of Jesus... He came as the **means** of our salvation, and He also **modeled** for us how saved people live...

- *Explain what this means regarding God's Kingdom and the implications it has on our lives...*

Let me frame out **chapter 14 really quick to make sure we're on the same page**... Jesus was invited over to a religious leader's house on the Sabbath... And they were watching him closely...

This turns into a really awkward situation, first, Jesus heals a man that **happened to show up** calling out their religiosity...

Gets more awkward- Jesus calls out the guests of the party and tells them to take the low seat and He holds up **humility** part of the essence of the inverted Kingdom He came to proclaim...

And then He calls out the host... Challenging him to true **hospitality** which the love of strangers...

Specifically, those who are outside the normal circle, where there is no motivation for reciprocity— *including but not limited to the marginalized...*

And then Jesus says that our hospitality **now** will be repaid **later** at the resurrection of the righteous... Again, this is pointing to living the now in light of what's to come... Living for His Kingdom and not our own...

Then you get a guy with no feel who yells out essentially yells *heck yeah, right on Jesus we can't wait to eat bread at the resurrection of the righteous in God's Kingdom!*

And Jesus is like *hang on bud...* You've got it all wrong and He tells a **parable** that depicts the reality of where they are, and where many of us are today...

And He reveals how outlandish our excuses are in light of who Jesus is, and the Banquet He's invited us... The banquet is a picture of the culmination of the Kingdom Jesus came to give us access to where Jesus makes all things new...

But unfortunately, many will miss it because they are **preoccupation** with the gifts and responsibilities of God rather than God Himself... Turning down Jesus' invitation for the things of this world rather than embracing the God of this world...

And He draws a line in the sand revealing that many who assume they will be at the table **will not be**, and on the other hand, the people that many assume **will not be** at the table **will be**... This is the inverted Kingdom... That many who think they are good, are not!

And then we get a powerful picture where we see that Jesus is the host and He doesn't change plans or make exceptions for those who made excuses, He changes the guestlist...

And we see a picture of the **humility** of Christ and the **hospitality** of Christ that's extended to the broken and the needy who recognize their condition and receive the invitation that Jesus has extended.

And then the picture becomes clear, that the things that Jesus has called us to in **Luke 14** are the very things that He's done for us! *Don't miss that!!*

Now, up to this point in **chapter 14** Jesus has been talking to the **religious leaders**... But now we're going to see a shift in **verse 25**...

The meal seems to be over, and Jesus picks up on His journey to Jerusalem... There is a crowd that's gathered around Him, and Jesus turns to them- the audience broadens...

This is a hinge point in the gospel of Luke... Where Jesus is going to speak in no uncertain terms what it truly means to follow Him... What it means to be one of His **disciples**- a disciple is a follower of Jesus...

There are many around Him who are contemplating becoming His disciples, and Jesus has something to say to them **and to us** in the text this morning as He paints a vivid picture of what it looks like to be a Christian...

Let's pick up in verse 25 and look at what He says...

Luke 14:25-34

25 Now great crowds were traveling with him. So he turned and said to them, **26** "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. **27** Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Alright, go ahead and turn to your neighbor and tell them- I'm glad you're here-I hate you... Kidding!! Don't do that!!

We got a lot to talk about here... what the heck does this mean? What's going on here... **Well Jesus is making a point**... And part of the point He's making is that following Him isn't easy... He's not trying to persuade people into being His disciple, if anything He's trying to do the opposite... You're going to see that very clearly in the text this morning...

The reason is because He wants genuine disciples and not lip service... Jesus is not about you fitting Him into your life, He's about being Lord of your life...

So, let's look at what He says here... Two things we need to unpack from the first part of what Jesus says...

A follower of Jesus must hate their family and their own life (v.26)

Now what do we do with this?? Well anytime we come to places like this, and Jesus tends to go here often, we allow scripture to always interpret scripture...

And when we do that, we see that Jesus is **not** being **contradictive**, He's drawing a comparison here with the goal of cutting to the heart... Jesus often says things that are extreme for the purpose of revealing the reality of our hearts...

To **hate** here isn't **literal**- otherwise Jesus' command to *love your neighbor as yourself* is out the window... Jesus is making a drastic comparison to drive home His point which is to *love less*...

He's saying in effect that your love for your family should be substantially less compared to your love for Jesus... Let the weight of that sink in...

Jesus takes the closest relationships, the most intimate relationships, the most powerful relationships, and He holds them up and says to follow me I have to be first place over these relationships...

Apply:

Do you have a greater allegiance to your family or Jesus?

Jesus says what He does because He knows that whoever you love more will ultimately dictate your life... If your allegiance is first to your family then they will be who dictate your life and **not** Jesus!

- We saw this last week in the 3rd excuse for why the guy won't be at the banquet- His family was first and it dictated his response to the invitation...

Are you more controlled by your family or Jesus?

What's the framework for how you operate?

Do you cater to and consult your family over Jesus??

- Are you subject to ***mom and dad***?
 - College student/young adult are you in control of your career or is Jesus?
 - Are you after your parents' approval more than sitting in the approval that's been given to you by God? ***This is a big one!!***
 - ***Do you desire to hear well done from your earthly father more than the eternal father?***
- ***Spouse?***
 - Are you more after the approval of your wife than you are after Jesus?
 - Are you overwhelmed with trying to make them happy?
 - Are your affections for them greater than your affections for Jesus?
- ***Kids?***
 - Do your kids dictate your life more than Jesus does?
 - Are they the center of your life?
 - Do they consume you more than Jesus does?

- o Are your affections for them greater than your affections for Jesus?
- **Brother/sister?**
 - o Are you more concerned with you sibling and where they stand on things or what they think about you than Jesus? Do the differences that you have with them take up more of your time and emotions than Jesus does?
- **Yourself?**
 - o Is life all about you? Is it all about your comfort and your pleasure? Is it all about your status, your position, your career?

You have to understand the appeal that Jesus is making, He's not giving these as good suggestions, or wise advice or things we should shoot for in the Christian life... He's saying you **cannot be my disciple is these things are true about your life...**

Please hear me, this doesn't mean that you don't love yourself or your family, it means that you love them less than you love Jesus... If you don't then Jesus isn't first place in your life...

And it means that you've taken relationships given by God and designed by God- *ultimately to point you to Himself* and you've made them **idols that you love and serve more than Jesus...**

You have to understand that when you or your family hold first place in your life that it's a hard life to live-it's an exhausting one full of let downs and hurts...

Because they will never be for you what you ultimately need... They will let you down and you will let them down and you will never find true contentment- you can only find that in the one who will never let you down, the one who laid down His life for you- JESUS!

Here's what I want you to understand in this: when you love Jesus more than your family and more than yourself, you will actually love your family better and love yourself better...

It will change your perspective and your view of both... **You will now love in light of Jesus and not instead of Jesus...**

- Jesus is the one who informs how you love, not you... This is a good place to be!

Let's look at the next part of this... Jesus says that: **A follower of Jesus must bear their own cross** (v.27)

First thing that I want you to understand is that Jesus is talking about the **process** of following Him **not access...**

What I mean by that is that you don't have to **do anything to be saved by Jesus**, but once you have been saved by Jesus... It's not pick up your cross to be saved- you don't have to clean up your life, you can't... **The point is because of your salvation by Jesus you now pick up your cross like Jesus...**

What does that mean? Well, the cross was an execution device- and it was the one that Jesus died on... **So, when Jesus tells us to pick up our cross it is a call to come and die...**

Wait, I thought Jesus did that for me? He did but now He's calling you to identify with His death in the way that you live...

Meaning that you put to death the *selfish, me-centered* part of you, the part that wants and does things counter to God... It is killing off the **me-centric ideologies by embracing a Jesus-centered life.**

And the way that you do that is by daily surrendering to Jesus finished work by laying down your life in submission to Jesus... Life's no longer about you, it is about Him, picking up our cross means that we live a life of total surrender to Christ. ¹

¹ Bock, D. L. (1994). *Luke: 1:1-9:50* (Vol. 1, p. 853). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

It is:

- Self-denial...
- ***It's Self-sacrifice for the one who scarified Himself for us!***
- A willingness to suffer in our pursuit of Jesus the midst of an opposing world... Just like He did...
- It's total ***allegiance*** and ***obedience*** to Jesus...
- Where Jesus defines and dictates how we live...

This is the part we don't like- we want the Savior to save us from Hell, but we don't want the Lord who says follow me, do as I do...

Here's what we have to understand, for Jesus to be **Savior**, *He also has to be Lord* overall, other wise *He could not save all...*

Which means that if you're going to claim Him as Savior, then you have to claim Him as Lord...

If you **don't** surrender to Him as Lord, but you claim Him as your savior that's a big problem, because you cannot separate His saving work from His Lordship...

Charles Martin: *We cannot receive the unmerited and priceless gift of salvation without absolute submission to the King who offers it. The Father will not allow it. Why? To do so makes a mockery of His Son's sacrifice.*²

Jesus didn't come to get you out of hell that's the byproduct, He came to give you access to His Kingdom- where God is and where He rules, reigns and is worshiped... This is a restoration back to God's original design, where we are in a right relationship with God, living under His complete and total governance over our lives...³

- ***Havens gate Hells flames...***
- So much more than that!

This is why the Lordship of Christ is required- which means total surrender, total submission from you and me... No surrender, no submission no access to the Kingdom!

You cannot *receive from Jesus what cost Him everything without giving Him all of you.*⁴

We're talking about a total life reorientation... A completely different way of living...

And what Jesus wants us to understand is that it's a costly one... Especially according to the ways of the world... Which is why He's going to continue like He does in **verse 28** after He says *to bear your own cross...*

28 "For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?"
29 Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, **30** saying, 'This man started to build and wasn't able to finish.'

If you don't count the cost, then you will start but not finish...

There are many who throws the sick in the fire, threw a rock in the lake, nailed a sticky note to the cross, had an emotional moment at camp, grew up in church, prayed a prayer one time... Who have **religion**, but not Jesus- because He has no place in how they live their life...

What they have was nothing more than an experience that made them think they were Christians but they're life looks like a half-built tower...

They know just enough right things to say so that you can see that there's some pieces or remnants of a structure, but it's nowhere near complete...

² Direct quote from Martin, Charles. They Turned the World Upside Down (pp. 196).

³ Thoughts from Martin, Charles. They Turned the World Upside Down (pp. 193).

⁴ Martin, Charles. They Turned the World Upside Down (pp. 195-196).

John R. W. Stott: *The Christian landscape is strewn with the wreckage of derelict, half-built towers, the ruins of those who began to build and were unable to finish, for thousands of people still ignore Christ's warning and undertake to follow him without first pausing to reflect on the cost of doing so. The result is the great scandal of Christendom today, so-called nominal Christianity. In countries to which Christian civilization has spread, large numbers of people have covered themselves with a decent but thin veneer of Christianity. They have allowed themselves to become somewhat involved, enough to be respectable but not enough to be uncomfortable. Their religion is a great, soft cushion. It protects them from the hard unpleasantness of life while changing its place and shape to suit their convenience. No wonder cynics speak of hypocrites in the church and dismiss religion as escapism.*

There's a difference in lip service and life surrender...

Jesus continues in verse 31...

31 "Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. **33** In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.

Here's what Jesus wants us to see here...

A follow Jesus must count the cost (v.28-33)

Here's the thing we do this all the time in life right? We want to do something and we weigh out the cost, *is the juice worth the squeeze??*

And for the things we love the answer is always yes... *I do this with hunting all the time...*

Let's talk about the cost and what that looks like, what does it look like for Jesus to govern our lives... I want to be really upfront with what the cost will be when you follow Jesus...

Let's start with what Jesus specifically mentions here...

Possessions:

He calls us to **renounce all our positions**... What does this mean? It means that we bring them under the **Lordship** of Christ... It's a reorientation where we see that we are stewards not owners...

This is a big... **Possessions** are a core idol for many of us...

- Generosity is how we renounce our possessions...
- Opening up you things and your wallet for God's Kingdom more than yours...
- **Stuff:** how can you steward it to love and serve others?
 - Home- hospitality?
 - Sharing letting others use your stuff...
- **Wallet-** giving- God doesn't need you money- it's a Lordship thing...
 - If you do not give you are robbing God (Mal. 3)
 - Some walk in the New Covenant Freedom too much... Not sacrificial, you don't feel it...
 - Keep in mind Abraham gave 10% of all he had **before the Old Covenant** (Gen. 14:20)

Jesus is after Lordship... for some of you that way that you spend your money shows right now that Jesus is not Lord of your life...

Counting the cost is not limited to possessions let's talk about some others...

- Time
 - Being missional...
 - Being intentional...

- o Living in community... Being committed to a church family...
- o Serving others...
- Purpose
- Comfort
 - o Walking with the marginalized...
 - o Willing to open you home...
- Security
 - o Open handed life- actually giving up things because they have become the priority... Here's everything I have...
- Preference...
 - o Your preferences are not primary... Laying down our preferences...
 - o Laying down where we lean politically...
 - o Where we lean in certain freedoms, we have that are not primary...
 - o We cannot allow our preferences to become primary...
- Purity- pursuit of holiness
- You neighbor...

I want you to count the cost... Following Jesus is a radical reorientation...

- And understand this, Lordship of Christ doesn't mean that we do all of this perfect, but that when we see that we fail we reorient to him... Sometimes we don't even know we're missing in some areas... God reveals it what do we do?
- See it and still say no that's a problem...

Jesus calls you to pick up your cross come and die it is a process that lasts a lifetime...

But listen to me, it's so worth it!!

Big Gospel appeal: Kingdom Access through the blood of Jesus!
Derek Prince:

- Jesus took our punishment and gave us His forgiveness (Isa. 53:4–5).
- He was wounded, that we might be healed (Isa. 53:4–5).
- He was made sin with our sinfulness that we might be made righteous with His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21).
- He died our death that we might receive His life (Heb. 2:9).
- He endured our poverty that we might share in His abundance (2 Cor. 8:9).
- He bore our shame that we might share His glory (Heb. 12:2).
- He endured our rejection that we might have His acceptance with the Father (Eph. 1:5–6).
- He was made a curse that we might enter into the blessing (Gal. 3:13–14).⁵

Self-sacrifice for the one who sacrificed Himself for us!

Jesus is after a total life reorientation... And when you understand what you've been saved from and who you've been saved to- it's the most natural response...

- This is the miss for some of you... Salvation ain't that great...

Example: You give me a new sleeve of bullets for my rifle I am thankful... You buy me a new bow and take me on a week-long hunting trip, you're wish is my command!

The magnitude of the gift impacts my attitude and actions toward the giver! The same is true when it comes to Jesus and the gift of salvation He's extended to us!

Close with **verse 34-35**

34 "Now, salt is good, but if salt should lose its taste, how will it be made salty? 35 It isn't fit for the soil or for the manure pile; they throw it out. Let anyone who has ears to hear listen."

Talk about how salt loses its saltiness...

- Salt has to stay salty to be useful...

⁵ Direct quote from Derek Prince via Martin, Charles. They Turned the World Upside Down (p. 204-205).

- Consider the coast and fix your eyes on Jesus- He's the one that preserves your ability to be salty...
- Otherwise, you will lose your ability to be salty and be thrown away by God when you could be used by God...

He who has ears let him hear!!

Conclusion & Call to Respond **[VAMP]**

We're going to see a tangible expression of everything that we've talked about today...

If you have been baptized... This is a reminder...

For some of you, you need to take that step, others need to believe for the first time...

Call for baptism and salvation:

3 Ways to respond:

Stand and sing...

Sit and Pray...

Come forward and respond...