



The Cost of the Kingdom Luke 14:25-33

Jesus Christ must be above all relationships (25-27).

Text Message:

- These words sound harsh, but the language of “hate” was a Semitic way of stating preference for one thing over another.
- Even so, these words are radical both then and now!
- Yet Jesus knew the days were coming when disciples must decide (See Luke 12:52-53).
- This reality is being lived out in our world **every day!**
- *Is there any relationship in my life that has greater influence than Christ? Is there anyone I’m putting before Him?*

Jesus Christ must be above all desires (28-30).

Text Message:

- While we may not be building a tower, we are all builders!
What kind of life am I building?
Who or what is the foundation that my life is being built upon?
If Christ, am I continuing to build on the foundation of Christ?
- Jesus here is building on a previous tower illustration (13:4-5).
- The temple in Jerusalem would cease to be built, and both it and those who pledged allegiance to it were destroyed!
- **And** the same is true today!

Jesus Christ must be above all allegiances (31-32).

Text Message:

- The previous verses refer to what is most personal to us, whereas these verses refer to allegiances we follow.
- Notice how Jesus switches from being very personal to something outside of us:
“If anyone... his own... his own life” (Verse 26).
“his own cross...” (Verse 27).
“For which of you...” (Verse 28).
“Or what king...” (Verse 31).
- The idea is “What king will you follow?” “What king has your utmost allegiance?”
- Again, we have reference to the Jewish war/temple destruction, where those who followed Jewish leadership in refusing “terms of peace” (32) and into war perished.
- This is a bold reminder that we must follow Christ and the way of Christ above any other king or nation!
- Jesus demands **not** “God and country” but “God (Jesus) period,” then “country” to the degree that “country” (president, political party, policy) accords with the way of Christ!

Jesus Christ must be above all else (33).

Text Message:

- Here Jesus both sums up and adds to all that has been said before this.
- The renouncing of “all that he has” is shorthand for anything that would get in the way of loving Christ and following Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- Christ says, “Give me All. I don’t want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are any good. I don’t want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked — the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours.” C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*