REVIVED COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Cost Of Yes

Luke 14:25-35
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I. Intro

A. Opening Reading: **Lk. 14:25-33**

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and 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. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. (**Lk. 14:25-33**)

A. Background

1. In the verses that precede our text, Jesus was teaching a parable about a man who threw a great banquet and invited many guests.
    a. When all the preparations were ready, He sent His servant to retrieve the distinguished guests.
    b. None were willing to come.
2. Jesus used this parable to make the nature of His kingdom very clear.
    a. You can't be about His Kingdom and simultaneously build your own kingdom.
3. In the preceding verses (our text), Jesus leaned in to answer this one question: "What does it really cost to say 'yes' to Jesus"?

II. Body

A. **The Cost of Allegiance** (**Lk. 14:26**)

26 *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.* (**Lk. 14:26**)

1. Hate Was Used as a Hyperbole.

<u>Hyperbole</u>: *extravagant overstatement meant to catch the listener's attention and convey a stunning truth.*

2. Hate (in this passage) was used to emphasize a love that shakes up normalcy.
    a. This is no casual, convenient love.
    b. In some cases, loving Him might actually cause you inconvenience.

34 *"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.* ***35*** *For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.* ***36*** *And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.* ***37*** *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* ***38*** *And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.* ***39*** *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.* (**Matt. 10:34-39**)

3. Love for Christ is so far above love for anything else, that all other loves look like hate.
4. Jesus was not against loving family.
    a. **<u>5th Commandment</u>**: *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land…* (**Ex. 20:12**)
5. What Jesus was against was holding on to a love that rivals love for Him.
    a. You gotta be willing to "risk it all" for His love.
6. Hate (in the text) was used to emphasize uncompromised priority.

26 *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.* (**Lk. 14:26**)

    a. Love God with everything.

b. Everything else is a distant 2nd.
c. The 2nd Commandment is the overflow of the first.

***Jesus doesn't merely want a place among our priorities. He demands supremacy over EVERY priority!**

B. **The Cost of Self-Denial** (**Lk. 14:27-32**)

***The call to follow Jesus is not an invitation to preserve our old lives with a few religious improvements.**

1. **Cross**: Following Jesus will cost you your self-rule/focus.

27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (**Lk. 14:27**)

a. Bearing the Cross clearly means that something and/or someone has to die. (**v. 27**)
   i. **Gal. 2:20**: *20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*
   ii. **Col. 3:3**: *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

2. **Tower**: Following Jesus requires an honest assessment of the cost.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish' (**Lk. 14:28-30**)

a. Jesus here is reminding us of the danger of starting something without first considering what it requires to finish.

3. **King**: Following Jesus requires a sober recognition of what's at stake.

31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes

against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. (**Luk 14:31-32**)

a. Any king who looks at his ability and resources must measure whether or not he is able to defend (and succeed) based on his own abilities and resources.
b. If after a sober evaluation, he realizes that he cannot do it in his own strength, he might as well surrender.

4. Jesus invites his disciples to count the cost of following Him, but he never invites us to negotiate the terms.

C. **The Cost of Surrender (Lk. 14:33**)

33 *So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.* (**Lk. 14:33**)

1. God has always called folks who will drop everything (in pursuit of Him).
   a. Peter, Andrew, James & John (**Matt. 4:18-22**)

18 *While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.* ***19*** *And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* ***20*** *Immediately they left their nets and followed him.* ***21*** *And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them.* ***22*** *Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.* (**Matt. 4:18-22**)

b. Abraham (**Gen. 12:1**)

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. (**Gen. 12:1**)

2. Indictment Against Our Lightweight Evangelism Model
3. Jesus is looking for folks who are so confident in Him that they would gladly forsake everything else (in pursuit of Him).
4. Jesus doesn't require every disciple to surrender every possession (socialism).

a. What He requires is for every disciple to relinquish their claim to ownership/control… of everything.

5. Unless you live your life like that, you cannot be His disciple!

III. Conclusion (Salt)

34 "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? 35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (**Luk 14:34-35**)

A. Salt is good only as long as it maintains the qualities/characteristics of salt.

1. In the same way, a disciple who has lost the distinguishing qualities of discipleship, is good for nothing.
2. What makes believers salty/distinct?
   a. A disciple gives supreme allegiance to Christ.
   b. A disciple takes up his cross (denying self).
   c. A disciple surrenders everything to follow Christ.

*Jesus never offered a discounted version of following Him.

   d. It'll cost you everything.

3. That's the cost of discipleship!

B. Jesus is worth your everything!

1. All that you may give to follow him…
2. Has an exceedingly great Reward: Christ Himself.
   a. We get God.
3. Paul said, "I have counted everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ our Lord" (**Phil. 3:8**)
4. Our "Yes" will cost us everything, but Jesus is worth it!