

Upside Down Kingdom *Tower Builder and Waring King*

Community Group Script...
Luke 14:25-33

25 *Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*

28 *“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’*

31 *“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.*

In our day and age, churches tend to judge their success based upon the ABC’s of church growth...Attendance, Building, and Cash.

The goal of every church is to be a mega-church because deep down we think that is what success looks like.

Now, don’t mishear me. It is not inherently bad to have a big church. After all, 3,000 were baptized in one day in Acts 2. That was a pretty big “church” gathering.

What I am saying is, in our goal to get more people to believe and to accept Jesus, many times we forget to help them count the cost of what it means to be a follower of his.

Some call it “easy believism.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it “cheap grace.” It is basically presenting Christianity without the cross or all the benefits of being a Christian without talking about any of the demands that the decision has on our lives.

Jesus had large crowds following him. I wonder if he was ever tempted to simply tell them what they wanted to hear or continue to wow them with food and miracles, in order to keep the large crowds happy and entertained?

What we learn from this text is that salvation is free but it’s not cheap. Grace has been freely given to us, but it will cost us our very lives.

So, if you were talking to a person that is thinking about becoming a Christian, how would you help them count the cost?

How would you explain the call to “carry their cross and follow Jesus” without inadvertently falling into works-based righteousness or legalism?

These questions are some of the things I would love for you to discuss in your group today. Be blessed!

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS:

Q1- When have you done something that really cost you something or had to sacrifice one pursuit for another?

Q2- What is the cost of discipleship according to this passage? What does it actually mean to “hate” our family relationships?

Q3- What does he mean when he says, “carry your cross and follow me?” What implications does that have for our lives?

Q4- What are these two parables about the tower builder and the warring king have to do with discipleship?

Q5- How would you help someone wanting to become a Christian to “count the costs?”

Q6- What has “counting the costs” and “taking up your cross and following Jesus” looked like in your life?

Q7- Is there anything you need to let go of right now, in order to follow Jesus?

Q8- How do we keep from falling into works-based righteousness or legalism in our attempt to apply this passage to our lives?