

Sunday, June 11, 2023
COUNT THE COST
PART 1: RELATIONAL REVIVAL

How many of you want to do the Lord's will in life? How many wants to be sure that you get all the way to hearing the Lord say, "Well done!" over your life? For the next two Sundays, let's talk about that very subject we're calling "Count the Cost." Today's part that teaching is "Relational Revival."

Our word for the church this year is *Revival through Relationship*. The direction being that God is going to use our relationships to assist in bringing revival into us and the church. To see revival, we must have our relationships operating in biblical order. That's what we will discuss today.

Luke 14:25-27 (NKJV)

How many of you have a person or persons in your life that you truly love? Praise God for that! *For us to experience personal revival, each relationship must flow in godly order and occupy the place of priority that God intends.*

Godly relational priority:

1. Spouse
2. Children
3. Extended family
4. Friends

Jesus, Who is an expert on personal revival tells us that, to see exponential spiritual growth, we must have one relationship at the top of that list. Who is that? This is such an indispensable aspect of revival that Jesus tells us that compared to our relationship with all other loves, we must hate them in comparison to our relationship with Jesus.

miséō – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.

Lk 14:26: "If anyone comes to Me, and does not *hate* (/miséō, 'love less' than the Lord) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

We are not being told to “hate” our other “loves” but to love them less than the Lord. If we don’t do this, we will ultimately face a decision in which our lack of godly relational priority will cause us to make a decision that does not flow with the will of God. That’s the natural effect upon our obedience. There is another factor in play as well. That is that the first place in our heart is reserved for that which is worthy of that place. While you may love others very much, they cannot save you nor give you peace nor form your future nor set you free from sin nor take you to heaven.

Failure to set relationships in godly priority blocks our attempt to be a disciple of the Lord.

Jesus said that to be His disciple, we must bear our “cross.”

staurós – the crosspiece of a Roman cross; the cross-beam (Latin, *patibulum*) placed at the top of the vertical member to form a capital "T." "This transverse beam was the one carried by the criminal" (Souter). Christ was crucified on a literal Roman cross (*staurós*). "Cross" is also used figuratively for the cross (sacrifice) each believer bears to be a true follower-of-Christ (Mt 10:38, 16:24, etc.). The cross represents unspeakable pain, humiliation and suffering – and ironically is also the symbol of infinite love!

Some relationships seek to operate out of their God designed priority.

If a relationship operates out of its place of God designed priority, it loses the power to bless you and begins to enslave you.

Bearing our “cross” implies placing these relationships in the God designed priority and making them operate within their scope of priority.

Operating within their God designed place of priority allows relationships to be a part of our spiritual growth.

Today’s Scriptures:

- Luke 14:25-27 (NKJV)