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Luke 14:25-35

The Cost of Discipleship

1. Intro
   1. There are “TEN” Basic rules that govern Economics. One of those such rules is the rule of trade-offs. That is there is a trade-off for everything. Meaning that in order for something to be gained you must make a trade off or sacrifice. The reality is one thing is increased while another thing is decreased. For example, money, I use money for gas so I trade money for gasoline and my wallet or cash decreases while my gas tank is filled with gasoline. Pretty Simple, right.
   2. The same is true of Discipleship, the goal of Discipleship is what John told us in John 3:30, “for He must increase, but I must decrease.” That’s the ultimate trade of as a Disciple of Jesus, which is to become more like Jesus.
   3. If we desire to become more like Jesus then we must make some trade-offs in this life or make some SACRIFICES. If we haven’t made any sacrifices to follow Jesus we must ask ourselves am I really following Jesus, It will cost me something if I am going to follow Jesus.
   4. Luke tells us specifically some of the patterns of Discipleship that we need to make in order to follow Jesus.
2. Body

\*\*\*\* Overwhelming Principle- QUOTE- “Discipleship requires the uncompromising sacrifice of a Cruciform life, ready to accept the possibility of Martyrdom, Single-Minded-Singled Hearted devotion, and a dogged tenacity.” End Quote-

Question- How does this line up with American or Western Culture Christianity, where we make all things, even our Faith about us or SELF.

* 1. VS 25 let’s Notice the Crowd that Follows Jesus
     1. Jesus has just left a Pharisees home and the crowd now is traveling with Jesus. Most of Jesus’ disciple teachings happens as they were traveling from place to place or in a public setting.
     2. The CROWD demonstrates the TWO types of People
        1. Those who will follow Jesus because they see and recognize Jesus is different and follow along to see what is about to happen in order to satisfy their curiosity and have a front row seat.
        2. The second group is the group that will continue to follow along not to see the show but those that demonstrate they have changed their lifestyles in order to journey along with Jesus as the Savior

\*\*\*\* Principle- There is a huge difference in Following Jesus as a Disciple and following along with Jesus to see what is going to happen- One involves Sacrifice the other involves self-interest.

\*\*\* Principle- If you are only here as a part of the CROWD there will be a day of dismissal for you- Jesus said depart from me for I NEVER knew you- We must decide, You must decide, AM I a Crowd member or a Disciple-

* 1. IF, I am going to be a Disciple Jesus gives us Two Warnings
     1. VS 26- Warning # 1
        1. There are some relationships that I must TRADE-OFF WITH
           1. The Word HATE does not mean HATE like it does in our Culture- It means to love one thing more than another-
           2. So Jesus is warning us to make sure we don’t love SOMEONE more than Him- (THIS IS HYPERBOLIE)

Parents

Spouse

Children

Siblings

LIFE-

\*\*\* Principle- Natural Affection can undermine Faithfulness to God and provide us with an excuse to backdown from our commitments: My Family must come first-

* + 1. VS 27 Warning # 2
       1. There is a Cross to Bear and an Example to Follow
          1. The use of the Cross illustrates for us the severe determination and Devotion in which we need in Jesus direction.
          2. In the Roman Culture those who were guilty of a crime and sentenced to Death on the Cross had to carry their own crosses to the place of execution. This meant and implied that the life of that person was condemned and already over.

\*\*\* Principle- My life is what I have exchanged for the Life of Jesus and I demonstrate my devotion to Him by also taking up my own cross to demonstrate my old life is over and my new life in Christ has begun-

* + 1. VS 28-34 Three Questions-
       1. VS 28 Would you build without Calculating the Cost
       2. VS 29 What King will go to war without first Calculating the Cost of War
       3. VS 34 How can Salt be used if it’s lost its usefulness
          1. Bricks and mortar were used as a means of making buildings that the kiln used was fired by dung. The fire area under the kiln would have been covered over with a salt in order to help keep the fire going and they would even use salt in the dung as an agent as well to keep the dung being useful for the fires.
    2. These questions are asked to get people to draw in so that Jesus can reveal the reality of being a Disciple-

\*\*\*\* Principle- The Reality of knowing about Jesus won’t cost you anything (Meaning your Salvation is Free gift), but being a True Disciple of Jesus will require EVERYTHING- VS 33- There is no such thing as a casual disciple of Jesus.

1. Conclusion
   * + 1. We must Say goodbye to our old Self
       2. We must say goodbye to Some old Relationships that hinder God’s Work
       3. We must Say goodbye to the Stuff that we see as more than Stuff- it has become
       4. We must Say Hello to the Abundant Life of Following Jesus and being a Disciple-