

Oasis Church - Sunday February 13, 2022

=====

Counting the Cost

From the series The Gospel of Luke

=====

Luke 14:25-33

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "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. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 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? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 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? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

The Cost of the Gospel

* Jesus came to earth to redeem man back to himself. This was necessary because of our sin against him that goes back to the Garden of Eden. And Jesus planned on reconciling the entire world back to him.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

The Cost of Discipleship

* This cost is the primary lesson taught in this particular passage

If you are truly "in Christ" then you will experience a change – this process is known as sanctification.

* You should find yourself growing into a person that reflects the qualities of Christ. While it doesn't happen overnight, you should see spiritual growth.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 Corinthians 3:2-6

I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

Cost of Discipleship

* Paul chastises the Corinthian church because they oriented themselves to the flesh. Jesus, talking to the crowd in today's passage, knew that in order to follow him, they would have to reject the Jewish traditions and customs and would end up ultimately being rejected by their families.

Luke 14:27-28 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

* If you are my brother or sister in Christ, Jesus has given you a cross to bear. It comes in many forms. Each of us has a mission for Christ. In order to meet that challenge, you have to align yourself with the teachings of God, align yourself with His church, and align yourself with purpose for you.

* You can do this while fulfilling your calling as a fisherman, soldier, teacher, retail worker, insurance agent, construction worker, office worker, nurse doctor, fireman, police officer, or lawyer.

* The problem is that we don't want to pay for it. We want to get the free for me stuff. I am part of a church because it fits our needs. I am Christian because I want to go to heaven. I send my kids to Christian school because it is better for them.

* We truly are not paying the cost to have a better life because we are not willing to invest in ourselves. We just pursue immediate pleasure and mediocrity.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

The Cost of Living in the World

* Many of you are living out this passage this very moment, because you have not taken up your cross and now you are living for the devil himself not even realizing it.

* The un-discipled church has shirked its responsibility and turned toward the enemy while wanting to fit in. The Cross that we are to bear is one, work within the area that God has placed you in but also flee from the desires of the world.

* Sexual immorality

* Drug and alcohol

* Divorce rates

* Financial hardships