




HAVE YOU COUNTED THE COST?
Luke 14:25-33

Woodland Park Church of Christ
14 February 2021

Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 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.*** ²⁷ And ***whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*** 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’? ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you ***does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.*** Luke 14:25-33 (emphasis mine)


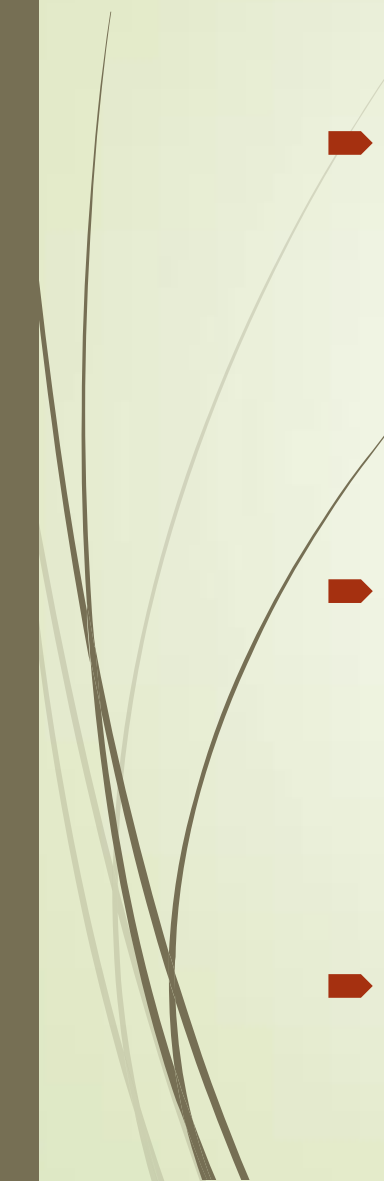
CONTEXT


- Recall that Jesus gave a parable of The Great Supper (Feast) in **Luke 14:16-24**. Many, however, rejected the invitation – see the piece of ground just purchased; test the 5 yoke of oxen; service my new bride. Even after the invitation was enlarged, the venue was partially filled.
- Invitations of the Lord
 - “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.” **John 7:37**
 - “Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” **Matt. 11:28**



In today's lesson text, the Lord challenges His disciples to carefully consider the cost of discipleship.

- Yes, there is a smorgasbord of spiritual and other blessings awaiting; the benefits are unparalleled.
- But, not going to always be easy going – tough sledding ahead.
- Sounds good to be able to enter the kingdom with the Lord, behold the miracles, walk with the messiah, and gain honor in the sight of God.
- The notoriety, accolades and benefits are so alluring, but there will be backlash.

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- ▶ The Lord understood human behavior.
 - ▶ People are moved by impulse and tend to make rash decisions.
 - ▶ Many are prompted more by “The Shine” and glamour than rational thinking.
 - ▶ She gets so much attention when she wears that.
 - ▶ “Man, I would look good driving that.”
 - ▶ However, relatively precious few will actually sit down and think through a course before diving in. Put pen to paper and carefully weigh the pros and cons or consider the consequences.
 - ▶ Few ask “Am I willing to lay it all on the line for the cause/mission/purpose?”



We behold and crave the successes, the benefits and all the good –


Fruitful & Lasting Marriage


Fulfilling & Successful Career

Exceptional Academic Performance

Productive & Meaningful Christian Walk

But these things do not just happen → they are the culmination of work, commitment, sacrifice and perseverance. Continuous works in progress.

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- Be ever mindful that **the price has to be paid – no cross, no crown.**
 - Christ exalted after going through the pain of humiliation, isolation, ostracization, and crucifixion.
 - For you are **bought with a price . . .**
I Corinthians 6:20; 7:23
 - . . . without **shedding of blood** there is no remission (of sin).
Hebrews 9:22; Lev. 17:11
 - . . . He has appeared to put away sin by the **sacrifice** of Himself.
Hebrews 9:26



➤ We have to continue to trust and walk by faith, even when –

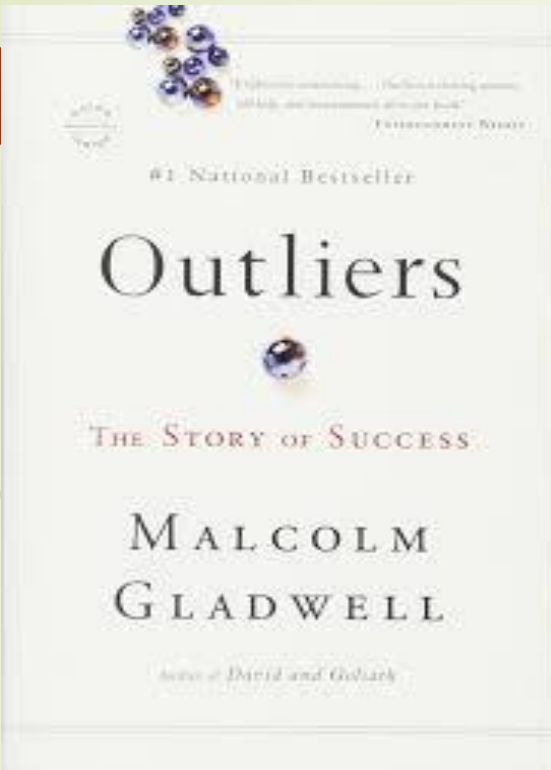
➤ We see our loved ones depart this world;

➤ We are mistreated, although it was undeserved, and you want to throw a brick and not extend an olive branch;

➤ We work honestly and ethically, and seem to be running in quicksand, while the untoward and wicked appear to catch all the breaks;

➤ We continue to press, even when doors are being slammed and locked all around us!

Reminded of the conscientious scientists who spent hours developing cures, while their contemporaries were satisfied working 9 to 5 in a cushiony, comfortable environment (the race to find a vaccine for COVID-19)




- ***The Rule of 10,000 Hours***
- Those who separate from the pack don't just work harder; they work **much** harder!

I. Allegiance to Christ – No Competition

“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.***” Luke 14:26

- Not hatred in the sense that we often mean it. Here, it is to regard less!
- Choice between whose voice to hearken to, you choose the Lord.
- Forsake not the assembling of the saints vs. staying home with a visiting relative.
- Family member implores you to do something unethical to help them “get ahead” or gain an advantage.




Take with me your share of hardship [passing through the difficulties which you are called to endure], like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier in active service gets entangled in the [ordinary business] affairs of civilian life; *[he avoids them] so that he may please the one who enlisted him to serve.* **II Timothy 2:3-4 [AMP]**

II. The Reality of Self-denial (Sacrifice)

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

- There is no question that a fruitful and productive Christian journey requires a crucifixion of self.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have *crucified the flesh* with its passions and desires. Galatians 6:22-24


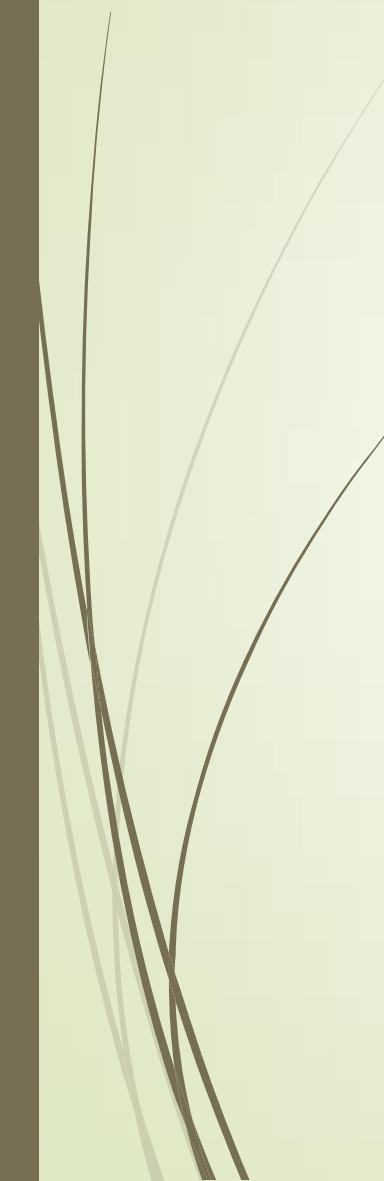


Opportunity costs are often heavy fees to be paid.

- ▶ Opportunity cost → what one gives up or forfeits (i.e., what we trade/barter) to pursue a certain course
- ▶ Now that I'm Christ's, I can no longer run with the same crowds, tell the same jokes, engage in the same behavior, walk the same walk
- ▶ It's in play in essentially every aspect of our lives (marriage, parenting, employment, even hobbies and extracurricular activities – like exercise and diet)

Hearken back to life as a student-athlete.

- All classes had to be completed by Noon to have time for lunch, get ankles taped and treatment in before meetings 2:00 p.m. – lot of 8:00 a.m. classes.
- Friday nights during the season were spent in sequestration/isolation for the game on Saturday – even when we played home games.
- Summer school was pretty much required.
- Year-round training and conditioning.
- Curfew & mandatory study hall.
- **Getting up at 5:00 a.m. during winter workouts.**

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- Reality was we had to give up many of the things that “normal” college students seem to enjoy.
 - “Sleeping in” because they had afternoon classes
 - Going back to the room or apartment after class to take a nap or snooze until dinner time.
 - Visiting classmates and friends and playing cards well after 10:45 p.m.
 - No one monitoring their class attendance, meal consumption, weight, etc.
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III. All in with Christ – Total Commitment

So likewise, whoever of you ***does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.***

Luke 14:33

- No fence-straddling
- It's a binary proposition –“In/Out,” “On/Off,” “Yes/No”

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord]. Matthew 6:24 [AMP]



Lord's Invitation Extended to All

➤ Be added to the Lord's body

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7; I Corinthians 15:1-4**)

Believe (**Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10**)

Be baptized (**Acts 2:38, 8:38**)



Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (1 John 1:8-9); or
 - **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).
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