

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Luke 14:25-35
Lesson #43
Count the Cost
07/19/2020

Distorted views of Christianity

**Reducing Christianity to
social ethics**

**Defining Christian hope in
terms of temporal blessings**

**Conditioning Christian grace
on meritorious works**



**Embracing Christianity
without discipleship**

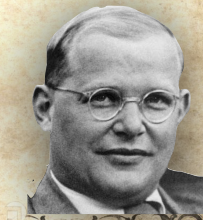
1

“Christianity without
discipleship is always
Christianity without
Christ.”

Luke 14:27

“Whoever does not bear his
own cross and come after
me cannot be my disciple.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



2

Responding to the Gospel

Some fail to see the value.

Luke 14:17-24

Others fail to count the cost.

Luke 14:25-35

**Both fail to share
the peace and power
of God's Kingdom as
Disciples of Christ.**



3

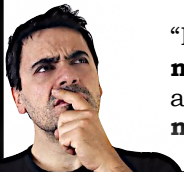
Luke 14

“25 Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 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. 27 **Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.**”

**Jesus challenges us to
make sacrificial choices.**

Matthew 10:37

“He who loves father or mother
more than Me is not worthy of Me;
and he who loves son or daughter
more than Me is not worthy of Me.”



4

“28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not **first sit down and calculate the cost**, to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.”

31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not **first sit down and take counsel** whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace.”

**Jesus challenges us to
think critically & rationally.**



5

A robust, healthy faith is:



✓ Intellectually **convincing**.

✓ Emotionally **moving**.

✓ Morally **transforming**.

✓ Socially **connecting**.

✓ Culturally **inspiring**.

6

“33 So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. 34 Therefore, salt is good; but **if even salt has become tasteless**, with what will it be seasoned? 35 It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**Jesus challenges us to
make a difference in this life.**

Matthew 5:13

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is **good for nothing** anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”

7

Ephesians 2

Coming to Christ (sonship)

“8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

Following after Christ (discipleship)

10 **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”**

8

The distinction between sonship and discipleship

**Children
of God**

**A static
(unchanging)
position**

**Our (new)
nature**

**Disciples
of Christ**

**A dynamic
(changing)
posture**

**Our (new)
calling**

9

Romans 12

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**“Brethren” (sons and daughters)
are called to walk as disciples**

**We must take our
baptism seriously**



10

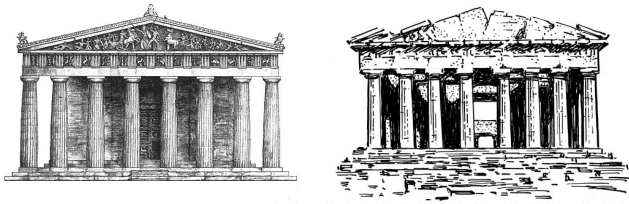
**Jesus simply asks us
to be true to ourselves,
bearing God's Image.**

**Know yourself
Accept yourself
Forget yourself
Give yourself.**

11

Know Yourself

Parthenon - Marred Magnificence



Humanity - Dignity & Depravity

**Not worthy of salvation
but worth saving**



12

Accept Yourself

Based on
Grace

Finished at the
Cross



Applied by
Faith

Resulting in
Salvation



13

**When the Son shines
all other stars
are hard to see.**

14

Forget Yourself

**It's not thinking less of yourself
but rather thinking of yourself less.**

Romans 12



"I urge you therefore, brethren,
by the mercies of God, to
**present your bodies a living
and holy sacrifice**, acceptable
to God, which is your spiritual
service of worship."



**This step is essential to being
able to follow Jesus' teaching.**

15

Give Yourself



Renewed
Mind



Put off
Old



Put on
New



16

Ephesians 5

"³¹ For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great; but **I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.** ³³ Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband."

**In what way is marriage a
picture of discipleship?**

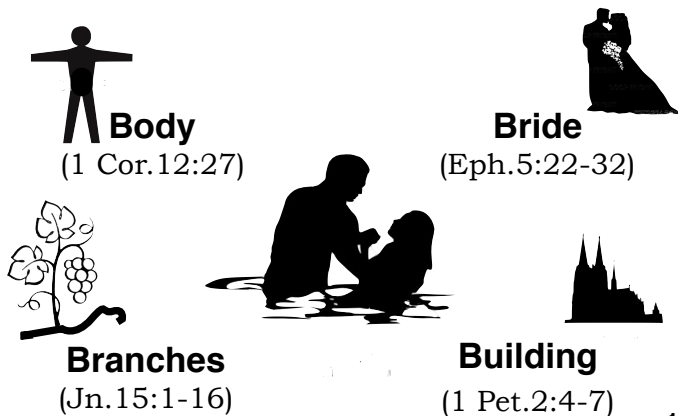
**What does it mean to be
the bride of Christ?**

Isa.54:5, Eph.5:27, Rev.21:9



17

Our role in our union with Christ (abiding, reflecting, sacrificing)



18

I am the bride of Christ but that doesn't mean it's all about ME!



19

Marriage - a picture of discipleship?

- **Discipleship - is seeing ourselves differently.** Like marriage it is a covenant calling us to altar (and alter) our lives. We no longer act as though single but live in union with our mate.
- **Baptism - is a spiritual marriage ceremony.** It is a formal **INITIATION** of a covenant relationships with responsibilities.
- **Discipleship is like marriage - not perfect, nor easy, but involves serious and sacrificial life changes that count the cost and walk the walk out of love.**



20

Managing the stress in a broken world

- **Face reality** - this is not heaven and it ~~may~~ will get worse before it gets better.
- **We are not alone** - Christ's Spirit is a "Comforter", "Teacher" not a surrogate.
- **We can handle it - if we get ourselves out of the way.** The Spirit anoints US not our circumstances.
- **Be salt and light** - We can make a difference IN the lives of others by giving them hope not heaven.
- **Consider the alternatives** - Where else can we go?
- **Count the cost** - as we disattach from the idols we once thought would save us.
- **No "get out of jail free" card** - miracles are SIGNS not solutions.

21

The Kingdom of God on earth is

a free society
with a communal heart,
personal responsibility,
and heavenly hope.

22

Philippians 4

"10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak from want; for **I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.** 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**"

- **Phil.4:10-13 is Rom.12:1-2 applied.**
- **Free from ourselves to GIVE ourselves**
- **Taking our baptism seriously**

23

Application to pandemic & economic stress

- **Be a Disciple** - Take our baptism seriously. Be a living sacrifice.
- **See this as a test and witness.** - Sign of where our faith, hope, & love is centered.
- **Recognize the opportunity.** - Salt & Light.
- **We can handle this.** - Patience, Courage, Creativity, Peace, & Teamwork.
- **We are not alone.** - The Body of Christ has a head and many members.
- **We only lose if we fail to shine.** - in the dark - be the "Body of Christ".

24

"We shine when the fire inside us burns brighter than the fire around us."



25

Application to social injustice and strife

- **Don't be a part of the problem.** - by failing to be a disciple (Rom.12:1-2).
- **If we are the majority or in power.** - Be the answer to someone else's prayers.
Double down on including and aiding - putting an arm around not just a hand out.
- **If we are the minority or without power.** - witness to a hope and joy from sharing in Christ's suffering.

We can handle this. - Patience, Courage, Creativity, Peace, & Teamwork.

26

James 1

"⁹ But the brother of humble circumstances is to **glory in his high position**; ¹⁰ and the rich man is to **glory in his humiliation**, because like flowering grass he will pass away."

James 2

"¹ My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with **an attitude of personal favoritism**. . . ⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not **God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith** and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man."

Note that it is the way we view ourselves in relation to each other that is the big concern.

27

"The Negro needs the white man to free him from his fears. The white man needs the Negro to free him from his guilt."

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Martin Luther King Jr.



28

"Religion is the thing that makes the ordinary man feel extraordinary; . . .

. . . and the extraordinary man feel ordinary."

G.K. Chesterton



29

“One of the greatest diseases is to be nobody to anybody.”

James 1:27

“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

Mother Teresa



30

When asked what she had done to reduce poverty she said,

“I have spent most of my life trying to be one with the poor.”

Mother Teresa



31

“There is more hunger in the world for love and appreciation than for bread.”

Matthew 4:4

“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

Mother Teresa



32

“I do not feel anger toward the wealthy of this world who have worked hard and are blessed. I only feel anger when I see waste, when I see people throwing away things that we could use.”

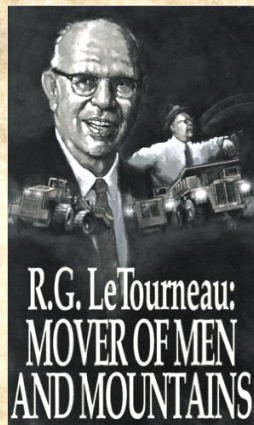
Mother Teresa



33

“It’s not about how much of my money I give to God, but how much of His money I keep for myself.”

R.G. LeTourneau



34

Responding to the Gospel

Some fail to see the value.

Luke 14:17-24

Others fail to count the cost.

Luke 14:25-35

Next Week

Others fail to want the change.

Luke 5:36-39

35