

THINK TWICE // Luke 14:28-33

Message from the series, The Cost of Discipleship

In the previous verses (Luke 14:25-27), Jesus puts forward the cost of discipleship. First in verse 26, Jesus says, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own [family]... he cannot be my disciple.” Second in verse 27, Jesus says “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

Jesus then puts forward two short parables deserving of our attention. The first is about a man who considers building a tower. The second, about a king contemplating war. What is Jesus doing with these scenes? He is calling us to *think*. The call to follow Christ is a call to engage the mind.

Jesus calls us to consider the cost of following him, or even tragically, the dreadful cost of not following him. Two questions emerge from the text.

“Can I afford to follow Jesus?” — As with the man and the tower (v. 28-30).

“Can I afford not to follow Jesus?” — As with the king and his army (v. 31-32).

We now understand why Jesus is calling us to think. We are going to give our lives to Jesus one way or the other. We will either surrender ourselves in glad submission to him as his disciples, or we will be conquered by him as a King (Revelation 19:11-21). Christ is the stronger King!

Therefore, we are faced with a stunning conclusion – We must give Jesus everything, now. Here is the final call of discipleship, which is naturally represented by the following words of Christ in the next verse. “Anyone of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

What is Jesus doing here? Jesus is summarizing. He’s playing cleanup. He’s already demanded our relational allegiance (v. 27). He’s already demanded a life of self-denial (v. 28). Now he’s calling for our stuff. Jesus knows better than we do that material possessions can be the very impediment over which we stumble in our discipleship. Could it be that the cares of this world keep us from the Kingdom? Yes.

MAIN IDEA: Discipleship requires an intentional detachment from the cares of this life.

Six Reasons to Give Everything to Jesus:

- 1. He gave everything to you.** Jesus gave you his Son (John 3:16). You can give him your stuff.
- 2. It is already His anyway.** He made it all. He owns it all. Have this perspective.
- 3. He is a better steward than me.** Our stuff, big or small, is best used when in his hands.
- 4. You will lose it in the end.** Why hold on so tight, when the end is inevitable? Give it all to Jesus.
- 5. Stuff never satisfies.** Items tend to become as idols. Stuff can be very sticky.
- 6. Your life depends on it.** Jesus made it clear, “You cannot be my disciple.” That has eternal significance. We are warned: don’t let your stuff keep you from knowing and following Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Spend time counting the cost. What does it cost to follow Jesus? Make a list, ask God for clarity.
2. Be honest – do you have possessions or do possessions have you? Do your best to explain.
3. We heard from Jesus. It’s time to ask the pressing question, “Are I [you] his disciple?”