#### JESUS IS YOUR LIFE LUKE 14:26

#### INTRODUCTION:

- 1. In Luke 14, tells two stories.
  - a) The story of the unfinished tower. (Luke 14.28-30)
  - b) The story of the prudent king. (Luke 14.31,32)
- 2. From these stories, we learn the valuable lesson of discipleship.

# I. THE CONTEXT OF THESE STORIES

- A. Contextually, Jesus addresses a large multitude who have been following Him. (Luke 14.25)
- B. The message contained three conditions of discipleship.
  - 1. Love Jesus more than anyone. (Luke 14.26; Matt. 5.44)
  - 2. Live a life of sacrifice. (Luke 14.27; Gal. 3.13)
  - 3. Loyalty to Jesus above all others. (Luke 14.33)

# II. THE MESSAGE OF THESE STORIES

- A. The phrase, "cannot be My disciple" is used three times.
  - 1. Disciple: A learner. (Matt. 28.19,20; John 8.31)
  - 2. Cannot (dunamos): Literally, power, ability.
- B. The message of these stories: If you do not meet these demands, you do not have the ability to be My disciple.

### III. ANALYZING THESE STORIES

- A. The story of the unfinished tower. (Luke 14.28-30)
  - 1. A man considers whether he can finish the tower.
  - 2. Before one becomes a disciple, do they have what it takes?
- B. The story of the prudent king. (Luke 14.31,32)
  - 1. A king wanted to expand the borders of his kingdom.
  - 2. It is time to make a decision.

# IV. APPLICATION OF THESE STORIES

- A. Jesus is why I want to go to heaven. (Col. 3.1-4)
- B. Jesus is my everything. (2 Cor. 5.17; Col. 1.27; Phil. 2.5)
- C. How do I become a disciple of Jesus? (Gal. 3.26,27)

**CONCLUSION:** Have you counted the costs?

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" -Mark 16.15

#### July 14, 2024

#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: 9:00 AM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

# WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SAINTHOOD?

It is commonly taught that true saints cannot be alive. Catholic doctrine teaches that one becomes a saint when a Christian dies and is then canonized into sainthood by a ceremonial procedure. It is claimed that a saint is a Christian who, after death, is recognized for a life of charity and virtues and has performed a miracle.

The Bible, however, defines saints in very different terms. The word "saint" comes from the Greek word "hagios." It is properly defined as "holy, separated". It is found numerous times within the New Testament and is always used synonymously with the word "Christian", "believer", and "disciple". (Phil. 1.1; Rom. 1.7)

God has not set up a small group of elite Christians that are a cut above the rest of the believers. Purity, holiness, and separation from sin are required of all of God's people. Christians are commanded to "come out from among them and be separate" (2 Cor. 6.14-18). They are told to "be holy for I am holy" (1 Pet. 1.15,16).

Honest students of the Bible will use Bible names in Bible ways. It is when we redefine the terms of the Bible that we begin to fall away from the pattern of the New Testament and begin seeing a departure from the faith (1 Tim. 4.1-3). Therefore let us always be diligent (2 Tim. 2.15)! CLP

#### THE POWER OF GOD REVELATION 4:11

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

- 1. John was given a view of the throne room of God. (Rev. 4.1,2).
- 2. In this rare glimpse into heaven, the power of God is seen.

# I. THE MANIFESTATION OF POWER

#### A. The supremacy of God

- 1. There is no one as powerful as God. (Ex. 9.14)
- 2. **REVELATION 4.2:** "One sat on the throne."
- B. The providence of God.
  - 1. **REVELATION 4.3:** *"there was a rainbow"*
  - 2. God provides for His creation. (Gen. 8.22; Phil. 4.19)
- C. The greatness of God.
  - 1. **REVELATION 4.4:** "I saw twenty-four elders"
  - 2. How great is God to you? (Matt. 22.37; 6.33)
- D. The majesty of God.
  - 1. **REVELATION 4.5:** "lightnings, thunderings, and voices."
- E. The omnipotence of God.
  - 1. **REVELATION 4.8-11:** "for you created all things"
  - 2. Everything exists and is sustained by God.

# II. RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF GOD

- A. The heavens.
  - 1. **PSALM 19.1:** "The heavens declare the glory of God"
  - 2. The upper regions account for His glory. (cf. Gen. 1.14)
- B. The firmament.
  - 1. **PSALM 19.1:** "the firmament shows His handiwork."
  - 2. No one can fail to see the glory of God. (Ps. 19.2,3)
- C. The tabernacle.
  - 1. **PSALM 19.4:** "In them He has set a tabernacle."
  - 2. Where is the tabernacle? "In them" In the galaxy.
- D. The sun.
  - 1. **PSALM 19.4:** "a tabernacle for the sun"
  - 2. **PSALM 19.5:** *"Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber"* The glorious appearance of the sun.
  - 3. **PSALM 19.6:** *"Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end"* The path of the sun.

**CONCLUSION:** The Almighty God will decide your eternal destiny. But He has provided a plan to be saved.

# **The First New Testament Church**

Jesus promised to build His church. In keeping with His promise, the Holy Spirit fell on the apostles who preached the gospel for the first time in recorded history. Three thousand responded to the gospel by being baptized (Acts 2.41), and the Lord's church was established (Acts 2.47). But what kind of church was this first church in Jerusalem?

Verse 42 describes this church as a group of God's saved people who engaged actively in worship. They did not merely go through the motions but "*continued steadfastly*." Literally, they intently engaged in worship. If you keep reading, there is something else that characterized this congregation. This group of Christians who met in Jerusalem were as one.

Verse 44 tells us that "all who believed were together..." The word translated as "together" translates a common Greek word that means "self" or "one." The idea is that they were together as one person. The text goes on to say that they had "all things in common." The word "common" comes from the Greek word "koine." It is the base word for "fellowship." It describes sharing or participating together. What did they share with one another? We learn the details on verse 45: "and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need." This was a church who were as one person and did not see their possessions as belong to themselves, but shared everything they had with one another (Acts 4.32).

The Lord's church is to be as one. But are we as one if we argue and debate matters of personal preferences and opinions? Are we as one if we talk about our brethren behind their backs? Are we as one if we withhold our contribution because we would rather use it for our own entertainment?

Ephesians 4 helps us to become as one. The chapter begins with a proper mindset. You will read words like "lowliness," "gentleness," "longsuffering," and "love" (Eph. 4.1,2). These are the attitudes that facilitate our ability "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4.3). Too many congregations of the Lord's church are divided either physical from a split or emotionally as brethren refuse to interact with each other. And where you find division, you will find the attitudes of Ephesians 4.1-3 lacking.

The Lord's church is a wonderful group of the best people in the world. But it takes work to develop a mindset of unity. CLP