

THE PARABLE OF THE UNFINISHED TOWER

LUKE 14:28-32

INTRODUCTION:

1. The parables in Luke 14 are in a context of discipleship.
2. Both making and being true disciples involves self-reflection.

I. THE POINT OF THE PARABLE

- A. The point is seen in the parable itself.
 1. Read Luke 14.25-33
 2. Three times, Jesus used the words *“cannot be My disciple.”* Literally, you don’t have the ability.
- B. Looking closer at the conditions.
 1. **LUKE 14.26:** *“If anyone does not hate”* Lit., love Jesus more. Everything we do come out of a love of Jesus.
 2. **LUKE 14.27:** *“And whoever does not bear his cross”* He does not live for himself. (Luke 9.23; Gal. 2.20)
 3. **LUKE 14.33:** *“whoever does not forsake all that he has”* Everything that is mine is no longer mine. (Eph. 4.28)

II. THE CHAPTERS OF THE UNFINISHED TOWER

- A. Chapter One: Calculation.
 1. **LUKE 14.28:** *“sit down first and count the cost”*
 2. Calculate the cost of discipleship.
- B. Chapter Two: Criticism.
 1. **LUKE 14.29:** *“lest, after he has laid the foundation...”*
 2. **LUKE 14.30:** They mock him for not finishing it.

II. THE CHAPTERS OF THE PRUDENT KING

- A. Chapter One: Calculation.
 1. **LUKE 14.31:** *“Or what king, going to make war”*
 2. Calculate the cost of discipleship.
- B. Chapter Two: Conclusion.
 1. **LUKE 14.32:** *“asks conditions of peace.”*
 2. Be willing to pay the price. (Col. 3.1-4)

CONCLUSION: The parables of Jesus get to the heart.

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

October 27, 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

SPEAKING THE TRUTH

To the Christian, speaking the truth is essential. We know that lying is sinful and those who lie will not enter into eternal life (Rev. 21.8). But speaking the truth in and of itself is not enough. Sometimes we can speak the truth and still be in sin. It is not just what we say, but how we say it that matters.

We are to speak the truth in love. In Ephesians 4.15, Paul contrasts our speech with those who lie and deceive. We are not to be deception. We are to be honest. But speaking the truth is to be done in a certain way. He writes, *“but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ”* (Eph. 4.15). What you say may be truthful, but if you speak the truth to embarrass, denigrate, and shame, you are just as wrong as someone who lies.

We are to speak the truth in Christ. With his words being challenged, Paul repeatedly tells his audience, *“I am not lying”* (Rom. 9.1; 2 Cor. 11.31; Gal. 1.20). In 1 Timothy 2.7, in reference to being an apostle, he writes, *“I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying.”* Paul did more than speak the truth. He spoke the truth in Christ. The idea is that he is speaking as someone who is inspired (cf. Eph. 3.3-5). When we speak, it needs to come from the scriptures (1 Pet. 4.11).

To speak the truth by speaking from scripture and doing so with an attitude of love is to work on for all of us (Matt. 12.36,37). CLP

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THE PARABLE OF THE UNFINISHED TOWER

LUKE 14:28

INTRODUCTION:

1. To understand the parables of Jesus, it is essential that you listen to Jesus. (Mark 4.13).
2. The two parables in Luke 14 teach us about what it takes to be a true disciple of Jesus. Do you have what it takes?

I. THE BACKGROUND THROUGH A TELESCOPE

- A. The command to make disciples involves teaching them what it takes to be a disciple. (Matt. 28.18-20)
- B. How do you make disciples?
 1. **MATTHEW 10.24:** “*A disciple is not above his teacher...*” A disciple submits himself to his teacher.
 2. **MATTHEW 10.25:** “*It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher...*” A disciple imitates his teacher.
 3. **MATTHEW 10.42:** “*whoever gives one of these little ones...*” A disciple helps the needy.
- C. How do you live as a true disciple?
 1. **JOHN 8.31:** “*If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.*” A disciple lives by the scriptures.
 2. **JOHN 13.34,35:** “*By this all will know that you are My disciples...*” A disciple loves his brethren.
 3. **JOHN 15.8:** “*that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*” A disciple bears much fruit.

II. THE BACKGROUND THROUGH A MICROSCOPE

- A. The parables are set in a context of Jesus addresses crowds.
 1. **LUKE 14.25:** “*Now great multitudes went with Him.*”
 2. **LUKE 14.25:** “*And He turned and said to them...*”
- B. There are three conditions we must meet to be disciples.
 1. **CONDITION #1:** To be a disciple, you must love Jesus more than anyone else. (Luke 14.26)
 2. **CONDITION #2:** To be a disciple, you must be willing to give your life for Jesus in self-denial. (Luke 14.27)
 3. **CONDITION #3:** To be a disciple, you must see your possessions as belonging to Jesus. (Luke 14.33)

CONCLUSION: In the background, Jesus teaches about discipleship. Do you have what it takes to be a disciple?

FAITH COMES BY HEARING

You can hear and not believe. But you cannot believe without hearing. That was the point made by the Holy Spirit in Romans 10. In the contextual flow of the Romans 9-11, the Holy Spirit addresses the objections of the Jews who felt rejected for no longer being the people of God. These Jews needed to understand that salvation through Jesus was the plan of God since the beginning. Now that the plan has been fully realized, everyone could be saved by calling on the name of the Lord (Rom. 10.13).

From this context, we read first about the necessity to hear to believe. In verses 14, the question is asked, “*how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?*” You cannot call on the name of the Lord and be saved if you have never heard about the Lord. This emphasizes the importance of getting the message of Jesus out to people. Earlier in the chapter, we are told that along with confession, “*if you believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*” (Rom. 10.9). To be saved, you must have faith, and you cannot have faith without hearing. That leads to the familiar passage of ROMANS 10.17: “*So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*”

Second, we read about hearing without believing. You cannot believe in Jesus if you have never heard of Jesus. Are we then to conclude that those who do not believe have never heard? Is the lack of faith due to a lack of hearing? The very next verse answers that question: “*But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed*” (Rom. 10.18). From this question, a series of Old Testament passages are quoted to show that the gospel has been preached and the Jews have heard.

So why did they not believe? After emphasizing the importance of hearing, the Holy Spirit writes, “*But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord who has believed our report’*” (Rom. 10.16). Some have heard about Jesus, but they still have not obeyed Jesus. That because they did not believe the message that was preached. The Hebrew writer makes the same point when he makes reference to Israel during the wilderness wanderings. He writes that “*the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith*” (Heb. 4.2). They heard, but they did not benefit from the message choosing rather not to believe it.

It is impossible to believe without hearing. But it is possible to hear and still chose not to believe. Hearing and faith are inseparable. Faith and obedience are inseparable. The only way to be saved is to hear the gospel, believe what it says, and do what it says. CLP