

Give It Up; Luke 14:25-35

I. Come to Me

- A. Luke 14:25–26a; 25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate...
- B. If - a conditional sentence
- C. Anyone - the offer is open to anyone who would follow the condition stated in the sentence
- D. Comes to me - Jesus is the way to salvation
 - 1. Being His disciple is how we become co-heirs of the Kingdom
 - 2. Being His disciple is how we inherit the promise given by God to His people
- E. Hate - “denotes a deep and heartfelt alienation from all ties, and affections, and feelings, that would interfere with devotion to Christ.” J. Willcock
 - 1. Every scholar I read agrees with the idea of this word “hate” meaning “to love less”
 - 2. The idea is that Jesus spoke in hyperbole (intentional exaggeration in order to communicate a crucial point)

II. Family

- A. To hate ones family (mother and father) is the exact opposite of the ten commandments; honor your father and your mother.
- B. The family culture of Israel is based on this commandment
 - 1. In the desert, around the Tabernacle, they camped by tribes,
 - 2. They moved around by tribes,
 - 3. They were given their land inheritance by tribes
 - 4. Ephesians 6:1–4; 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
- C. So just what is Jesus referring to here?
 - 1. As strong as your bond is with your family (and according to God, it should be very strong), your bond with Jesus should be stronger. You should be ready to give up even your family for Him
 - 2. Luke 9:57–62; 57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”
- D. Now this request from Jesus may seem odd because some have very strong ties to family
 - 1. My immediate family has always been very close, yet I am the only one who claims Christ as my Savior and God as my King
 - 2. Both my parents have died, and the only people left in my family are my step father, brother, and half sister.
 - 3. I have other family, but only found them recently and we haven’t had the opportunity to grow close

4. We may be a fractured family (not the “normal” family makeup) but I love them very much and I am always trying to find a way to get to see them. They are family and I love them
5. Jesus has asked us to love Him more

III. Self

- A. Luke 14:26; “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.
- B. On the surface, I find this at odds with the greatest commandments
- C. Matthew 22:37–39; 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
- D. The two greatest commandments
 1. Love God
 2. Love your neighbor and yourself (you can’t love your neighbor as yourself and not love yourself)
- E. Matthew 6:9–10; 9 Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- F. Luke 22:42; saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”
- G. Luke 9:23–24; 23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.
- H. Galatians 5:22–24; 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- I. Galatians 2:20; I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

IV. Carry your Cross

- A. Coffman’s commentary
 1. Long familiarity has softened the meaning of this for modern disciples, the usual notion of it being that the reference here is to a patient, submissive acceptance of the ills and misfortunes of life;
 2. but Jesus plainly meant that to be his disciple one would have to hate his own life to the extent of willingness to accept crucifixion at the hands of the Romans for the sake of fidelity to Christ.
 3. The background against which Jesus spoke these words proves this to be true. Only twenty-four years previously, about A.D. 6, "The Romans crucified hundreds of followers of the rebel, Judas the Gaulonite ... Crucifixion was a common spectacle both before and after that date." Norval Goldenhuys
 4. Therefore, Jesus' mention of bearing a "cross" could not have failed, in the audience which heard him, to mean the most horrible of deaths.
- B. We must be willing to die for the cause of Jesus!

V. Possessions

- A. Luke 14:33; So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.
- B. This strikes at the heart of our selfish lives

- C. But Jesus just outlined the enormous cost of discipleship in the previous verses about building the tower and going to war
 - D. In view of that enormous cost (the “therefore” at the beginning of the verse) we must be ready to give it all up... NO!!!!
 - E. We must have already counted it as loss!!!!
 - F. We own nothing; we are stewards of the things God has given us and His expectation is that we use them in service to Him in His Kingdom!
 - G. Philippians 3:7–8; 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
 - H. Whatever you think you own... you don't.
 - I. Your name may be on the title to the car, the deed to the house, in the “Pay to the Order Of” on the check, but you only have it because God gave it to you
- VI. Give It Up
- A. Love Jesus more than your family
 - B. Love Jesus more than yourself
 - C. All of “your possessions” are God’s possessions, including yourself