

Counting the Cost

Luke 14:25-35

25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,
26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.
27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.
28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,
30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.
31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?
32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.
33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.
34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?
35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Value

the regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth, or usefulness of something.

the material or monetary worth of something.

the worth of something compared to the price paid or asked for it.

a person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life. Morals.

estimate the monetary worth of (something).

consider (someone or something) to be important or beneficial; have a high opinion of.

LUKE 14:16-24

16 † Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:
17 † And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.
18 † And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.
19 † And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.
20 † And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.
21 † So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.
22 † And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.
23 † And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
24 † For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

63-1116B INVESTMENTS_ NEW.YORK.NY V-18 N-11 SATURDAY_

< 70 † Jesus saw this young man, and He loved him. Now there is one thing that we seem to lack a lot of, today, because the people that doesn't love us, it seem like we don't want to love them. Since I've been amongst the Full Gospel people, and that's one thing that I find, until I met this Business Men's group, that the organizations of the Pentecostal beliefs seem to isolate themselves. That isn't expressing the Life of Jesus Christ. He loved all, and He loved this young businessman. Though he turned Him down, yet He loved him.

71 And the young man found something in Jesus that he didn't find nowhere else, and was invited to receive this that He had, but the price was too great. And though he had seen that the investment that he was asked to invest in, it cost him all of his worldly possessions, for Jesus told him, "Go sell what you have."

58-0314 LOVE_ HARRISONBURG.VA FRIDAY_

< E-8 † Now, we know that a little piece of paper half-inch square would not be worth even picking up on the street. But it wasn't the value of the paper; it's the value lays in what's on the paper.

And that's the way it is with God's Word. It isn't just the paper that it's wrote on, but it's the value of it, is because it's the Word of the eternal God. And Jesus said, "Heavens and earth will pass away, but My word shall never fail."

Therefore John 3:16, tonight, although small in its portion, holds enough value to save the world. It's got enough value in it to heal every sick person that's on the earth today. It's a pardon to every sinner. It's joy to every weary person. It's hope for the hopeless. It's food for the saint. It's healing for the sick. It's a pardon for those who are troubled. It's a--all these things to you if you receive it as that.

58-0328 HEAR.YE.HIM_ MIDDLETOWN.OH FRIDAY_

< E-4 † Sometime ago a little friend of mine was searching through an attic in an old building that his mother and father had just moved into with their family. And he was in an... found an old trunk. Looking through some old relics and things that was in this trunk, he run onto a little postage stamp, just about a half inch square. And while looking at this post--postage stamp rather yellow, and he said, "You know, that might be valuable." So with one thing in mind, a nice cone of ice cream, he took down the street to a friend of his that was a stamp collector. And as he got to the stamp collector, he said, "I have found a stamp. And I wonder if there's any value to this stamp." And the collector at once, throwing his big glass on the stamp, why, he said, "Yes, son, I'll buy that stamp from you."

Said, "How much will you give me for this stamp?"

He was expecting five cents. And the collector said, "I'll give you a dollar bill for that stamp."

Oh, that meant many ice creams, so he said, "It's sold."

And the stamp collector having some sense of value to the stamp, later he sold that stamp for fifty dollars. And little after that it was sold again for five hundred dollars. And the last I heard of that stamp, it was sold for a quarter of a million dollars.

You see, it isn't the size of it. It's what was wrote on the stamp that makes the difference. So that's the way it is with the Word of God. It isn't how much we read. It's the value of the Word. Because it is the expression of the immortal God. Down through the ages many man has read this same Scripture. And it's never failed to serve its purpose.

58-0328 HEAR.YE.HIM_ MIDDLETOWN.OH FRIDAY_

< E-5 † If I wrote you a letter, I believe that we are friends enough that you would appreciate it. And if you wrote me one, I would appreciate it. But if your letter was just addressed to me; after I read it, it would not be so valuable or it would not be valuable to anyone else. It would be a letter that was directed to me, or mine letter directed to you. And after it's once read it could be discarded unless you just kept it as a relic.

But, oh, it's not so with the Word of God, because it was not addressed to any certain individual. It was addressed to all of Adam's fallen race, to every mortal being. That's why it's so valuable. Just one word, you can hang on to it with all that's within you and know that it is the truth. Jesus said, "All Scriptures must be fulfilled." He said, "The heavens and earth will pass away, but My Word shall never fail."

62-0128M UNBELIEF.DOES.NOT.HINDER.GOD_ PHOENIX.AZ SUNDAY_

< E-47 † You're--you're controlled by two elements: either you believe, or you do not believe. Now, let's take unbelief and see what it does. It creates a worry, and it brings oppressions, and it can't help you at all. There's no value in unbelief at all.

If you... Say if you were going to be shot in the morning at sunrise, it wouldn't--it wouldn't help you any to worry about it, not a bit. It'd only just make it worse on you. So you--you can't do that. It's not good to do it.

"Well," you say, "what does faith do?" It... "What does the Word of God do?" It creates a faith. "Well, what could faith do if you was going to be shot in the morning?" It can deliver me--has done it many times. Sure. See?

There's no value in unbelief. All the value there is is in faith, believing God's Word, taking God at His Word.

63-0804A ONCE.MORE_ CHICAGO.IL V-21 N-7 SUNDAY_

< 43 † Now let's take Samson's side, what must have went through the man's mind as he stood there. All the great victories he had once had, must have passed through his mind. The event is on now, the entertainment for the afternoon is fixing to start. The ones that's to be entertained are thinking of what he was, and here he is standing here a thinking of what he was. But because some woman lured him, the picture has changed, to what it should been. God raised Samson up to destroy that nation, that was the very purpose of bringing him on.

44 If God can only find one man, that's all He needs, one man that can fully surrender to Him. He don't take an army; He never did use that. He only uses a man.

63-0804A ONCE.MORE_ CHICAGO.IL V-21 N-7 SUNDAY_

< 45 † Now, Samson gave God His strength to use, but he didn't give God his heart. He gave his heart to Delilah, and gave his strength to God.

46 But you've got to surrender soul, body, spirit, strength, everything you are, to the will of God, become a prisoner to Him. You're going to be somebody's prisoner. You don't belong to yourself. You are somebody's prisoner. You're either a prisoner of the devil, knowing this Truth and won't surrender to it, or a prisoner to--to the world, and surrender to God, one or the other. You're either the devil's prisoner, to sin, or you're God's prisoner, to righteousness. You're one or the other.

63-0804A ONCE.MORE_ CHICAGO.IL V-21 N-7 SUNDAY_

< 47 † And now Samson thinks of the great victories that he had won. No doubt it come to his mind of how, that when he was a little boy, that God had vindicated him, told his mother that how that she must do; not drink strong drinks, or--or watch her diet, that she was bringing forth a Nazarite. How she combed his hair, and told him, "Son, through these locks, it's a covenant with God, that your strength will lay in there. Don't, never give it away. Don't, never give away your secret. Don't, never surrender it. Whatever you do, stay with it."

63-0804A ONCE.MORE_ CHICAGO.IL V-21 N-7 SUNDAY_

< 48 † Jesus Christ told the church, that, "Heavens and earth will pass away, but my Words shall never pass away. And whosoever shall take one Word from It, or add one word to It, his part will be taken out of the Book of Life." The church ought to think of that now as we stand in this chaos, in this hour just prayer... prior the Coming of the Lord Jesus, at any moment, for a Rapture.

63-0804A ONCE.MORE_ CHICAGO.IL V-21 N-7 SUNDAY_

< 49 † The great victories that we can point back, in the days gone by, in the reformation, back in the days of Irenaeus and Saint Martin, Patrick, and those who protested those organizations.
50 And when Luther came out and protested that first organization, Catholic church, and the group that followed him come right back and organized behind him.
51 When John Wesley come out of Anglicanism, and, as soon as Wesley left, they organized right behind him.
52 And the early Pentecost come out of the denominations. That was a cursed word to you. But, "As a dog goes to its vomit, and a sow to their wallow," you've went right back in the thing that you were born to defeat. Hallelujah! That hurts my heart, too, even more than to think of the victory yonder that Dagon had over Samson. I see what Jezebel has got over the church. And that's the reason that every strength and every fiber in my being, I'm trying to protest that thing, and call back that church to her place of repentance. Your mothers, your fathers, were ousted out of those organizations. They come out of it and protested it, and here their children has turned right back around and has went right back in the thing that they come out of. If that ain't a picture of Samson, what Delilah did!

63-0804A ONCE.MORE_ CHICAGO.IL V-21 N-7 SUNDAY_

< 101 † **There is a great price to pay. You must die to the thing that's brought you in this thing. You must die to the thing that's brought you, you Pentecostal people, to where you are this afternoon. You've got to die to it.**

102 Samson was willing to pay the price to get the power of God back in his life again.

103 I wonder if the church is, this afternoon, willing to pay the price and die with the enemy, the thing, all your popularity, and all your this, that, or the other, just to see the power of God back on you again, and become a prisoner of Jesus Christ?

60-0221 HEARING.RECOGNIZING.ACTING.ON.THE.WORD.OF.GOD_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN V-13 N-7 SUNDAY_

< 135 † **Now, anyone knows that the Seal of God is the birthright, the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Ephesians 4:30, says, "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you're sealed till the day of your redemption." When they were borned again, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the new birth, we know that.** You're--you're begotten of the Spirit; I'll admit that. But until you're borned... There's a baby is begotten in its mother's womb, that's got one kind of life; that's (See?) a life in its little--the little cells in its body is twisting and kicking and jumping like that. But when it's born, it has a [Brother Branham claps his hand, imitating a spank--Ed.] like that, and then he squeals out and becomes a living soul.

60-0221 HEARING.RECOGNIZING.ACTING.ON.THE.WORD.OF.GOD_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN V-13 N-7 «

241 + Let us bow our heads just a moment. My dejected friend, this morning, have you got something different to live for, something to bring you out of the world, something that means more to you than all the world, is to live for Christ? If you haven't got that, why don't you receive It now. Just don't go to church and say, "I want to be a good person." Don't do that. You want to be a Christian. You, if there's something that's always been in your heart, telling you, "You're not right, but I want you to be right." You've always longed to be something that you're not now, don't you know that's God calling to you? Don't turn your back on it. "For if you was once enlightened and had the opportunity, and turned it down your last time, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin."

Don't take up with Esau; come with Jacob, regardless of the--regardless of what it's going to cost you. If it costs you your home, if it costs you your job, if it costs your husband, it costs your wife, if it costs your children, if it cost anything, get the birthright. That's what counts. And if you feel that way about it this morning, and would like to have this birthright, I can't give it to you; God can, and He's the One that's talking to you. Would you just raise up your hand, say, "Pray for me, Brother Branham, that birthright, I want." God bless you, everywhere across. "That birthright, I want."