

## **Answering the Call to Commitment**

- Luke 14:25-35 -

- A. Whatever our task is as Christians, it should be in consideration of **Col 3:17**: "*do all in the name of the Lord Jesus*"...
- B. In a world of day of one-night stands, divorce, broken contracts, and faulty political promises, what has happened to commitment??

- 1.** \_\_\_\_\_
- A. God appeared to Abraham saying, "*Get thee out of thy country..*" (**Gen 12:1-3**). The value of this call to move was a threefold benefit
  - B. God approached Moses on Mt. Sinai (**Ex 25:1-9**) calling upon Israel to help in the building of the tabernacle. The people committed to it (**Ex 36:2-7**) with more than was needed...
  - C. God called Moses to lead Israel to Canaan (**Exo 3**). God called Joshua to lead Israel "*over this Jordan*" (**Josh 1:2**) into Canaan. God blessed them as long as they would "*cleave unto Jehovah*"
  - D. If God did not ask us to be a disciple, there would be none...
  - E. If you do not ask people for commitment, you will not receive it
  - F. Our Lord did not mind asking for a commitment in **Lk 14 – Being a disciple**... He was very clear and confident in asking (**v.33**).

- 2. A** \_\_\_\_\_ **Comes With** \_\_\_\_\_
- A. Jesus illustrates this with building a tower and going to war...
  - B. Jesus' expectations for His is to bear "*his own cross and come after me*" (**v.27**). Jesus was not building a crowd. He's building a church.
  - C. His expectation is as **Eph 5:27** - to have a glorious church without spot or wrinkle. It should be holy and without blemish...
  - D. There is a cost to be realized as described in **Lk 9:57-62**. What are the evidences of a "committed disciple"?
    - 1. \_\_\_\_\_ that abides in Christ through prayer, obedience, and growth.
    - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ with other believers.
    - 3. \_\_\_\_\_ of their gifts and abilities by using them to serve, help, encourage, exhort, edify, strengthen, and give.
  - E. Jesus calls into "the crowd" for disciples but not without letting them see the rewards of commitment: **Eph 1:3** all spiritual blessings; The promises God (**Matt 10:32,33; 1 Pet 3:12; 1 Cor 10:13**); family benefits, benefits to the Body of Christ (**Eph 4:16**) and the eternal benefits (**2 Pet 1:10,11**).

- 3. Every** \_\_\_\_\_ **Has A** \_\_\_\_\_
- A. Jesus mentions this is **Lk 14:26,27,33**... This makes all the difference being a *spectator* of the church and being a *participant* in the church, an *admirer* of Jesus verses being a *disciple* of Jesus...
  - B. Listen to the story in **Matt 21:28-31**. God is not impressed with voicing a commitment as much as living it...
  - C. Hear Jesus' illustration in **Matt 13:44, 45**. What is it worth to you to have a spiritual family, the church to grow, to stop drinking, to stop lying, to be an elder, to learn patience, or have peace of mind?

D. As a committed disciple, you will have to pluck out or cut off (**Matt 5:28-30**). We have the "resources" to start, continue, and finish. Paul did in **2 Tim 4:6-8**.

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ Will Be \_\_\_\_\_**

- A. Faithfulness is a repeated standard in scripture (abide, faithful, continue, steadfast, etc. – **Matt 10:22; Rev 2:10**)...
- B. Wood has a consistent quality. Trees year after year whether it is dry, wet, windy, disease, cold, or hot remain...
- C. Note the description of Caleb's commitment in **Joshua 14:6-11**. His committed was with **a vision**. He knew God could and would help Israel conquer Canaan. His commitment had **energy**. Caleb said "I'm as strong now as then..." As a result Caleb wanted the hill country with the giants. He said "*Jehovah will be with me*" (**v.12**) That's called **Trust and Obey**....
- D. The church suffers when people fail to answer the call of commitment. Why does the church suffer from commitment?
- E. Listen to **Psalm 37:1-6**. God is trying to tell us something. Commit yourself to me.