

THE PRICE WE MUST PAY

BIBLE TEXT : Luke 14:25-33

LESSON 149 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Luke 14:25-33

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.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Cost of Discipleship

1 The multitudes following Jesus were warned that indifferent service to God was unacceptable, Luke 14:25-33;

Deuteronomy 13:6-10

⁶ If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;

⁷ *Namely*, of the gods of the people which *are* round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth;

⁸ Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:

⁹ But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.

¹⁰ And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Exodus 32:26-28

²⁶ Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

²⁷ And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, *and* go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

²⁸ And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

Revelation 3:15

¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

2 Service to God must be given despite any opposition that might be encountered, Luke 14:27;

Luke 9:23-26

²³ And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

²⁴ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

²⁵ For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

²⁶ For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and *in his* Father's, and of the holy angels.

Mark 10:21

²¹ Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

John 19:17

¹⁷ And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Acts 14:22

²² Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Matthew 13:21

²¹ Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

3 Personal sacrifice must be willingly given,**Matthew 8:19-22**

¹⁹ And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

²⁰ And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

²¹ And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

²² But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

Luke 9:57-62

⁵⁷ And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain *man* said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

⁵⁸ And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

⁵⁹ And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

⁶⁰ Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

⁶¹ And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

⁶² And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

1 Kings 19:19-21

¹⁹ So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

²⁰ And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

²¹ And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

II Evaluated Service

1 Jesus instructed His followers that the price of discipleship must be fully considered, Luke 14:28-33;

Matthew 10:37-38

³⁷ He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

³⁸ And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

1 Corinthians 3:9

⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's

husbandry, *ye are* God's building.

Acts 7:39

³⁹ To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust *him* from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

Luke 17:31-32

³¹ In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

³² Remember Lot's wife.

2 A life consecrated to the service of God is the only assurance of a successful pilgrimage, Luke 14:33;

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Mark 10:28-30

²⁸ Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

²⁹ And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

³⁰ But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Hebrews 10:4-10

⁴ For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

⁶ In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

⁸ Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law;

⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

3 The Old Testament relates several instances where vows were made, as examples of the entire consecration the Lord requires,

2 Samuel 24:17-25

¹⁷ And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

¹⁸ And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.

¹⁹ And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

²⁰ And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.

²¹ And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.

²² And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what *seemeth* good unto him: behold, *here be* oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing

instruments and *other* instruments of the oxen for wood.

²³ All these *things* did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.

²⁴ And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy *it* of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

²⁵ And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

1 Samuel 1:11-15

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

¹² And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

¹³ Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

¹⁴ And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

¹⁵ And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

1 Samuel 1:24-28

²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was* young.

²⁵ And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

²⁶ And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

²⁸ Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

Psalms 50:6-15

⁶ And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God *is* judge himself. Selah.

⁷ Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I *am* God, *even* thy God.

⁸ I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, *to have been* continually before me.

⁹ I will take no bullock out of thy house, *nor* he goats out of thy folds.

¹⁰ For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills.

¹¹ I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field *are* mine.

¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world *is* mine, and the fulness thereof.

¹³ Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

¹⁵ And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

NOTES:
Following Jesus

To those who would follow Him, Jesus commanded, "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." There have been people who have heard this passage of Scripture read in Christian meetings and have immediately relinquished their profession of following Christ.

Are we actually to hate our own family and brethren? Jesus most certainly did not mean we were to have malice and malignity in our hearts toward our family. The proper meaning of hate in this passage of Scripture is a lesser love.

Our love and devotion to God must be the purest and highest affection in our lives. There is to be no neglect of the love and affection we owe our family and brethren. But that is not to be above the deep, moving worship that belongs to God and God alone. When affection for our family becomes worship, then that affection has become idolatry, for family affection has stolen what belongs to God. In that respect, then, we are to love our families and brethren less than we love God. (**Matthew 10:37** ³⁷ He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me)

This command of Jesus was no license for anyone to neglect his family or his rightful duties, under the guise of serving God. Anyone truly serving God is very diligent about the welfare of his family, both in their physical and spiritual needs.

God's commands are righteous and just. There is nothing that has precedence over the will of God, for God's will is of such prime importance that there can be no excuse for not obeying it. Under the Law the Israelites were commanded to slay everyone who would dare to discourage anyone from serving God, or who would be guilty of enticing one to serve idols. If a member of one's own family was guilty of such acts, he was to be slain (**Deuteronomy 13:6-10** ⁶ If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; ⁷ Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth; ⁸ Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: ⁹ But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. ¹⁰ And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage). Under the Dispensation of Grace we are commanded to separate ourselves as much as possible from any hindrances which tend to keep us from serving God.

Counting the Cost

Jesus warned His followers that they must consider the cost of discipleship. Momentary enthusiasm and superficial zeal were not enough. The decision for enlistment in the service of God was to be as deliberate as that of a man who contemplates the cost of building a tower. Before he builds he decides the amount of materials he will need, the question of proper tools, and his ability to use them, and whether he has sufficient means to buy all that he needs. Constructing a life of service for God includes the securing of the experiences of justification, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. These can be obtained only through the price of much prayer and consecration.

The foundation of salvation is Christ, and the beginning of

that salvation is justification, which is having our sins forgiven by the efficacy of the Blood of Christ. We are to build upon that foundation as wise masterbuilders.(1 **Corinthians 3:10-13** ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.)

An important part of the building is sanctification, a second work of grace, which removes the Adamic nature from the heart and soul of the justified believer. Still there is more to be added to the building. The abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, received through the experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, will enable us to be ready for the Rapture and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Consecrations must be made that will enable the disciple of Jesus to live an overcomer's life to a successful finish. Deliberately to attempt to follow Jesus with anything less than these experiences, or to try to avoid the consecrations that will bring them, is to commence a pursuit of Christ that can end only in defeat! That person's neighbor will mock him and say, "This man began to build, and was not able to finish." Peter, speaking of those who started and failed to finish, said of them, "It had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (II Peter 2:21).

Acceptable Sacrifices

It has been said that God requires only our reasonable service, and only that which it is possible to pay or achieve. That is true, but that reasonable service is all of ourselves! "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). This is the minimum requirement for successfully serving God. "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10).

We are to give our most heartfelt loyalty to the cause of Christ, and our undying devotion to Jesus. The best of the works of our hand: belongs to the promotion of the Kingdom of God. Our enthusiasm, our health, our purpose of life, and ability to work also rightfully belong to Christ.

Victory is within our reach. What we may lack in wisdom, strength, power, or anything else, God's grace will provide in a measure more than sufficient for our need. (**James 1:5** ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him) A willingness and consecration to do the will of God are the keynotes for following Jesus. He who settles it once and for all, for time and eternity, that he will by the grace of God serve Jesus all his life, has made a good start toward final victory.

A Perfect Sacrifice

There are several Old Testament characters whose vows to God are examples of the entire consecration the Lord requires of all who follow Him. There is the outer consecration which includes faithful service but does not entirely consist of faithful service. The most important is the inner consecration that is

made in its entirety from the depths of the heart and soul unto God, that cannot be counterfeited or superseded.

Hannah, desiring a child, prayed to God from the depths of her heart, speaking no audible word; and Eli, the priest, thinking she was drunk, rebuked her. Hannah promised the Lord that if He would bless her with a son, she would lend him to the Lord all the days of his life. God answered her prayer, and she gave birth to a son. Hannah kept her vow to God, and Samuel served the Lord from his infancy until his death.

David desired the threshing floor of Araunah that he might use it for making a sacrifice to the Lord. Araunah freely offered it to David with the oxen and all that he might need, but David refused to take it as a gift. David said, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (II Samuel 24:24). God accepted David's offering and He answered his prayer.

These are examples of the entire consecrations it takes to be a disciple of Christ. God's commands are very specific against offering an offering to God that is blemished or imperfect. "And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein. Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the LORD" (Leviticus 22:21, 22).

Thus in the Levitical types is found the truth that God demands a perfect sacrifice. Jesus Christ was the perfect Sacrifice for our sins; but we are to offer a perfect sacrifice or consecration to God before we shall be wholly accepted by Him.

What is a perfect consecration? We learn from the example of Jesus what it is. "In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God" (Hebrews 10:6, 7). To do the will of God is what Jesus came to do — and that is the perfect sacrifice (**Psalm 50:7-14** ⁷ Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God. ⁸ I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me. ⁹ I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds. ¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. ¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. ¹³ Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? ¹⁴ Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:) Nothing else is going to suffice, and anything less than a consecration to do the whole will of God is a scurvy offering and will not be accepted of God. It is comparable to trying to conquer the army of an enemy without the proper planning or sufficient forces. This was Israel's downfall, a blemished offering. Halfhearted service and complaining discipleship were the best Israel could seem to give.

They were "a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God" (Psalm 78:8). "They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law" (Psalm 78:10). Israel did not make a complete consecration, that which was required to see them through to victory; and the result was that they failed to make the goal.

Peter was once very bold in his claim that he would follow Jesus to the death if necessary. It was but a few hours later that Peter denied his Lord three times. This denial caused Peter so much sorrow, and such searching of his own soul that he repented and renewed his vows to God, and made such a

consecration to serve God that he never failed again. Peter became a great hero of the faith, and served the Lord faithfully to the end of his life.

Paul's exhortation to the Romans is to be remembered: "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

Jesus' positive words were, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." Consider the cost! We have the price to pay; and pay it we must if we will obtain all God has for us. If we pay it, great will be our reward on earth as well as in Heaven.

QUESTIONS

- 1 In what way is a Christian life comparable to building a tower?
- 2 What are the materials with which we are to build?
- 3 How are these materials obtained, and from whom?
- 4 Name several who made entire consecrations.
- 5 What is a perfect sacrifice?
- 6 Will God accept an imperfect offering from us?
- 7 Do we all have the price to pay for what God desires of us?