

Trinity Lutheran – Oregon City, OR
September 5, 2010 – Rev. Craig A. Patterson

“Jesus Equips Us To Finish The Job.”

(Text: Luke 14: 25-35)

Context: Jesus taught in a manner that made clear what the “kingdom of God” was, what the problem of mankind was (sin), who the true enemy (devil) is, and what it truly meant to come and follow Him (true discipleship). He heard the “excuses” that the people were giving for not following Him. He could see people’s selfish and proud hearts. He encountered some people’s ulterior motives for getting close to Him (other than sincere) and He now teaches what true discipleship entails. An honest and complete desire to know Him and imitate Him was/is called for. This is humanly impossible. Yet, by the grace that God supplies, it is possible! We were created for this fellowship with God!

I. Many Attempt To Follow Jesus With Attachments To Things And To People That Are More Important To Them Than Jesus.

- A. They don’t understand who Jesus really is and they elevate created things above Jesus who is God-incarnate.
 - 1. “All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being” (John 1:3).
 - a. Jesus created our father, mother, brother, sister, etc.
 - b. Jesus created me and gave me the life that I have.
 - * Am I to love this life, my family, more than Him?
- B. They fail to count the cost of following and imitating Jesus.

- 1. Sin, death, and the devil make war against our right understanding of whom and whose we are.
- 2. We, by ourselves, cannot win the battle against sin, death, and the devil.
- C. Discipleship is a grand undertaking:
 - 1. Like building a grand tower.
 - 2. Like waging battle against a mighty enemy.

II. Jesus Warns Us, Alerts Us, Loves Us, & Equips Us To Pick Up Our Crosses And Follow Him.

- A. He helps us to see clearly who and whose we are.
 - 1. We are more than our possessions.
 - 2. Attachment to the One who gave us everything (including our family members and possessions) is more important than attachment to our possessions.
- B. He fills us with His essence (He “salts” us with His saltiness.)
 - 1. He fills us with His righteousness (His goodness).
 - 2. He fills us with His mercy-filled love (Agape).
 - 3. He gives us His Spirit (The Holy Spirit converts us and then produces fruit, love, joy, peace, patience, etc., in us.).
- C. We overcome sin, death, and the devil.
- D. We become a blessing to others:
 - 1. Other disciples who are encouraged by us.
 - 2. Unbelievers who sit in darkness, live in darkness, and only experience the light through us. (We are little Christs – Luther)