

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Proper 18 - Luke 14:25-33

September 7 & 8, 2019

After careful consideration, Christians give up everything to have everything in Christ.

When Jesus saw the large crowd, what did he see? Success? **No**, concern!

- Concern: these friends were *fans*, not **followers**
 - ♦ They were with him as long as he was popular - fun - *I like him*.
 - ♦ What happens when he gets personal, talks about their sin?
 - ♦ What happens when he's crucified and they're *his followers*?
- Time to call *casual followers* to be **disciples**.

When Jesus looks today at the mass of people who identify as Christian, what does he see? Fans, not followers. Ask: *What makes you a Christian?*

- *We celebrate Christmas?* How? *With a Christmas tree, presents, & stuff.*
- *I was baptized.* Anything else? *Went to Sunday School as a child.*
- *I was confirmed.* Tell me what that entailed?
 - ♦ *5 or 6 classes with Pastor. We learned about our church and things I could do if I wanted to.* What did you learn about Jesus? *What?*
 - ♦ *In WELS: 2 years of lessons. Some memorization. Then I graduated.*

What about us?

- *We know Jesus died to pay for all our sins. We know Jesus is the only way to heaven. And we know the Bible is all true.* Awesome foundation!
- Does your daily routine reflect that Jesus & his words are your **necessity**?
- How much have you been transformed - growing Christ-like - over the last 2, 3, or 5 years - in speech, action, priorities, giving, loving, listening? Following Jesus to be rescued from sin's influence and slavery?
- It is tempting - so easy - to slip into casually following Jesus our way.
- Jesus didn't call us to follow him on our terms - casually - whenever
 - ♦ *If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, even their own life — such a person cannot be my disciple.*
 - ♦ *And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*
 - ♦ *...those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.*
 - ♦ That sounds like a monk's life! But it's not - in view of **all** Jesus says.
 - ♦ Simply: *Jesus is the one thing you cannot live without.*

- ❖ Why does Jesus deserve this devotion? **Consider** the cost and benefit.
 - Consider - think: apologetics - sound basis for following Jesus at all cost
 - ♦ Look at the whole picture. Jesus illustrates builder & preparing for war
 - What do we get following Jesus that's worth giving up everything else?
 - ♦ Jesus calls for a total change in my relationships - even with myself
 - *...hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, even their own life*
 - No longer love as the source of life - what we live for - ruling our lives
 - ♦ Jesus alone offers a restored relationship with God - the Source of life.
 - Shamed on the cross for the disgrace of our idolatry - paid for in full!
 - In Christ God declares us righteous - fully forgiven of all evil.
 - This good news creates faith - a new self that loves God above all
 - Faith that looks to God alone for life, happiness & fulfillment.
 - This new life - God's gift - is ours forever - eternal life with God
 - This gift is priceless! Nothing competes - not even *everything*!

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- ❖ Surprise! Give up everything to have everything in Christ.
 - Jesus teaches us how to appreciate his gifts of family, self, things
 - ♦ Not found in a monk's life. It's found living your life under Jesus.
 - Freed from making them our Masters, stewarding all he gives in Christ
 - ♦ Blessings from God, the Source - restored to their intended purpose
 - ♦ Love them in Christ **instead of in place** of Christ.
 - ♦ Use self & gifts for Christ's purpose: care for family, needy, his mission
 - ♦ Relationships with people to help them know and grow in Jesus
 - ♦ Love self by putting off Old Self (sinful desires) to live in Christ.
 - This is *taking up your cross to follow Jesus*.
 - ***Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*** Galatians 5:24
 - *crucify*: Treat as shameful, despised (hated), worthless, harmful
 - When everything is brought under Christ's reign, it's better and richer
 - ♦ Everything is better in service of Jesus vs. making them false masters
 - ♦ Maintained by evaluating everything with Jesus' teachings

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