

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map  
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Luke 14:25-33  
September 12 & 13, 2015

**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
  - 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 crowd called Christian, what does he see?  
What if Jesus asked: "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. What did that take? 5 or 6 classes with Pastor. What did you study? About our church and things I could do if I wanted to.*

What about us? How are we tempted to follow Jesus our way?

- ◆ *We know Jesus is the only Savior. He forgives all our sins. The Bible is all true. Awesome foundation! Now how much have you grown in wisdom and knowledge in the last year, 2, or 3 - in speech, action, priorities - in living a life of service in love, in godliness - Christ-like?*
- ◆ Jesus didn't call us to follow him on our terms - casually
  - ◆ ***"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.
  - ◆ **Release** from choosing self, people, things over God, i.e. Idolatry
    - Whatever is your Master, you expect it to give life/protection
    - You, your family, your possessions can't deliver. They're not God!
  - ◆ Jesus offers eternal life - restored into God's kingdom, forgiveness
  - ◆ You can't have 2 masters. When God is your God = eternal life
    - Jesus is God. He alone reconnects us to God for eternal life.
    - Total devotion to Jesus is **rescue from self** - worth **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 - restored to their intended purpose
    - Love in Christ **instead of in place** of Christ.
    - Use possessions for Christ's purpose: care for family, needy, 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
    - ◆ When everything is brought under Christ's reign, it's better and richer
      - Everything is better in service of Jesus vs. a false master
      - Maintained by evaluating everything with Jesus' teaching

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