

Counting the Costs Discipleship Parables



What Is A Parable?

- **Matthew 13:34-35 (Psalm 78:2)**
 - **Parable / Greek “Parabole” / Strong’s #3850**
 - **“Casting or placing side by side”**
 - **“To compare likeness or similitude”**



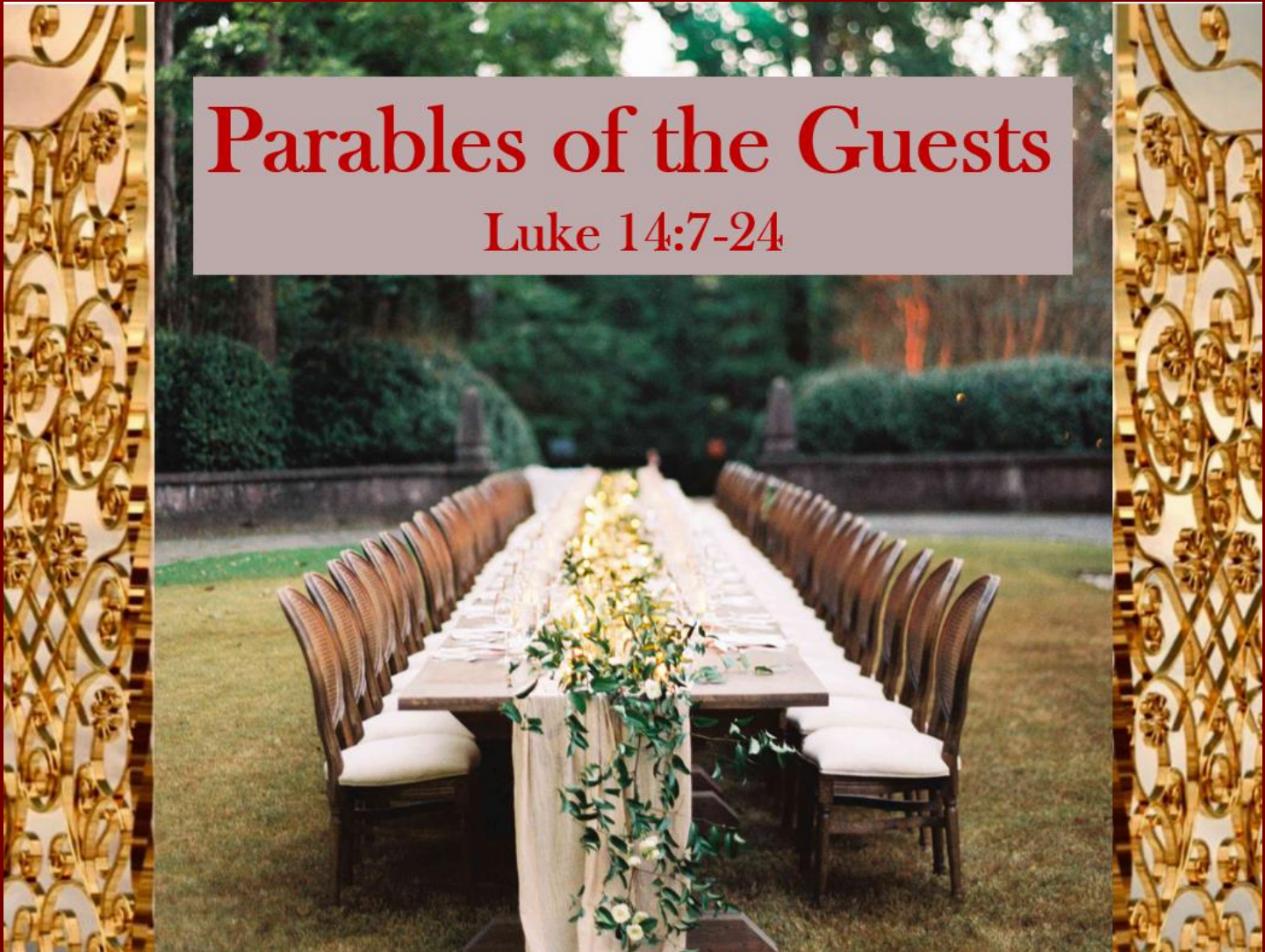
Parable Reminders

- A Parable is ***not*** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a ***casting or placing side by side*** to a real event or ***to compare likeness or similitude*** to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .

Context: Parables of Counting the Costs

Parables of the Guests

Luke 14:7-24



Parable of the Guest and Banquet in God's Kingdom

■ Our Responsibility

- We must be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Though we enter into the Commitment of Faith, at baptism, God does not want to see us playing the “self promotion” game. He wants to promote us, through our genuine humility.
- As we interact with others, our “guest list” must not be limited to those who can reciprocate our actions, but we must be genuinely hospitable.
- We must express appreciation for our invitation and not offer excuses to justify our personal conveniences, so that our desire for a strong and healthy relationship with God will remain, as time progresses, in our life, in this world.

Context: Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Key Concept: Disciple / Discipleship

- The Greek word translated into the English word, **Disciple**, is *mathētēs*; *Strongs Concordance #3101 / Used 269 times / Translated as Disciple.*
 - *Vines Expository Dictionary defines it as lit., "a learner" (from *manthano*, "to learn," from a root *math--*, indicating thought accompanied by endeavor), in contrast to *didaskalos*, "a teacher;" hence it denotes "one who follows one's teaching,"*
- This is a section of scripture often used during counseling for baptism. This is extremely important because the character of every life is determined by the loyalty, which rules it.
- Relative to our endeavor to live a Christ-like life, this section of scripture is important, because of the context of our loyalty to our Master / Teacher, Jesus Christ. Loyalty to any other person, thing or religious concepts at the expense of loyalty to Christ constitutes idolatry.

Context: Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Key Concept: Difference Between Follower or Disciple

- The Greek word translated into the English word, **Disciple**, is *mathētēs*; *Strongs Concordance #3101 / Used 269 times / Translated as Disciple.*
- The idea / context of the Greek word *mathētēs*, is someone who is not only learning and following, but someone who wants to emulate another.
- When Jesus taught, there were thousands of people that enjoyed His teaching. Many followed Him from place to place, but there were only a few who became disciples.
 - **Matthew 28:19-20**, “As you are going, make disciples among all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey and practice all that I have commanded you, and remember, I will be right there with you every step of the way.”

Context: Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

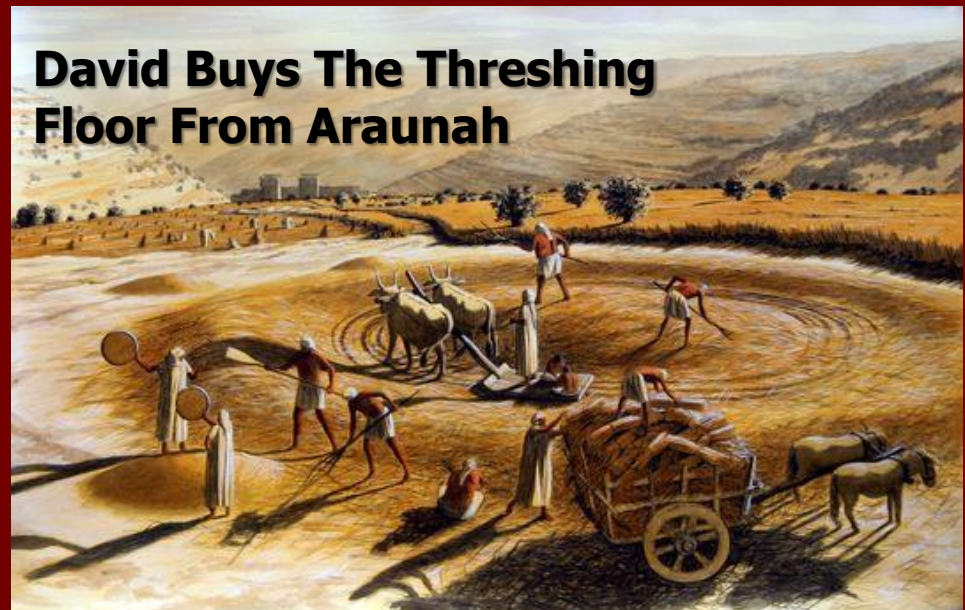
■ Key Concept: Cost and Worth

– II Samuel 24:21-25

❖ David would not accept the free gift of the threshing floor, because it would cost him nothing.

❖ The Father and Jesus Christ counted the cost, before proceeding with the plan for the salvation of humanity. Jesus left His Father's house to build His church (Matthew 16:18)

❖ Preparation / Cost / Value



Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

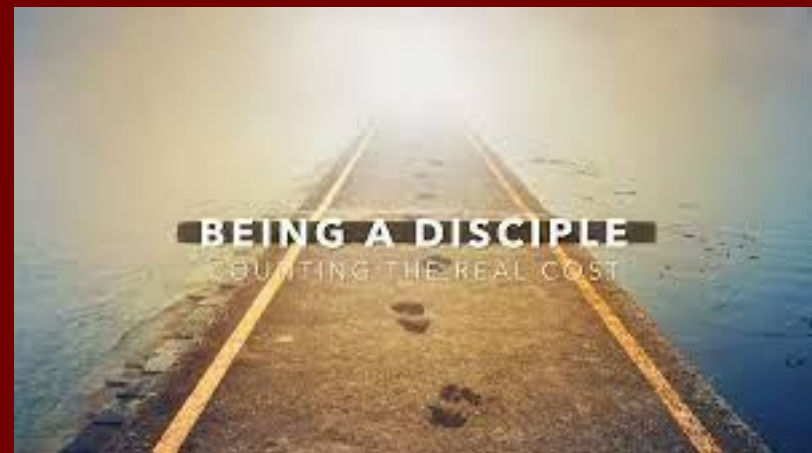
- Previously, Jesus said that coming to God was like accepting an invitation (Luke 14:16-24). Jesus was careful to add that there is more to being His follower than simply accepting an invitation.
- Was Jesus Christ trying to turn some away from Him?
- Is there a conflict being a disciple of Jesus Christ and the 5th Commandment?



Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

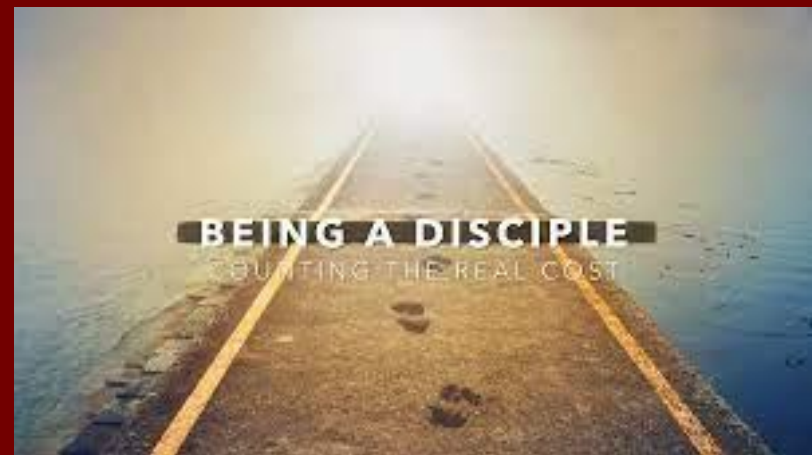
- “...hate his own father and mother and wife and children...” A vivid hyperbole meaning that one must love Christ more than immediate family (Matthew 10:24-39).
- It is interesting to notice that Jesus’ enemies did not try to quarrel with His words on this point. That would have been a good opportunity. They could have said, ‘Jesus, you have just taught the breaking of the 5th commandment.
- Because the 5th commandment says that you shall honor your father and your mother. And you say, ‘You shall hate your father and mother.’”



Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

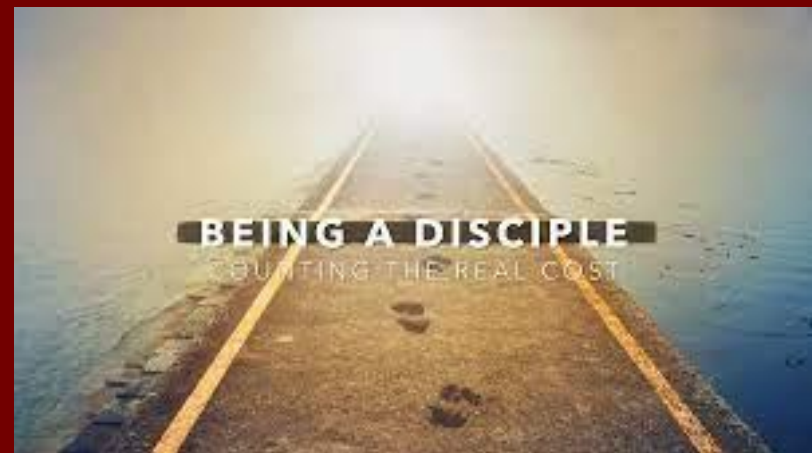
- “...hate his own father and mother and wife and children...” A vivid hyperbole meaning that one must love Christ more than immediate family (Matthew 10:24-39).
- Why didn't they take this chance to argue with Him? It appears that those hearing Him understood what He meant (not advocating the neglect of family responsibilities) using a Hebrew idiom where 'to hate' means that you love God so much more than anyone else that in comparison to loving Him.
- Your love for Christ must be so complete and wholehearted that your love for family members would be pale in comparison, pale to the point of being like hatred.



Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

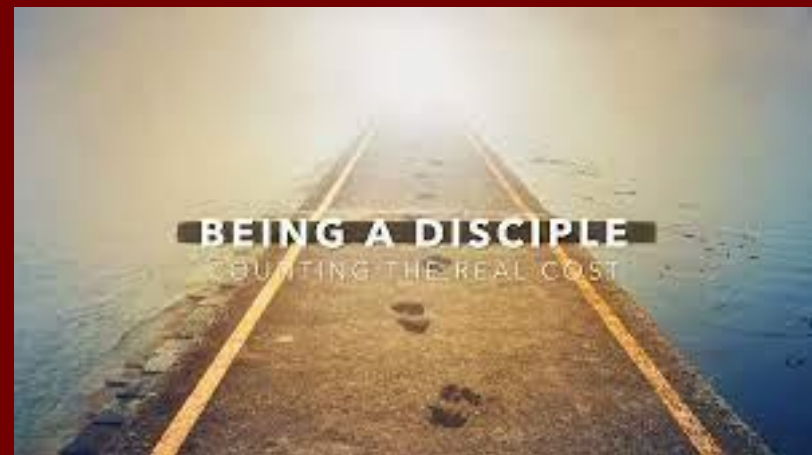
- “...hate his own father and mother and wife and children...” A vivid hyperbole meaning that one must love Christ more than immediate family (Matthew 10:24-39).
- Jesus’ point appears to be that those who wanted to be His disciples would have demands placed upon them. It is not going to be easy because the priorities of the kingdom must take precedence over all other commitments, even family commitments.
- ‘Lord, let me first bury my father.’ Jesus said, ‘Follow Me; let the dead bury their own dead’ (Luke 9:57-62). Jesus was speaking of priorities to making his family an excuse for not following Him.



Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

- “...hate his own father and mother and wife and children...” A vivid hyperbole meaning that one must love Christ more than immediate family (Matthew 10:24-39).
- To choose Jesus meant alienation from the family (similar and different to today). If somebody wanted acceptance of family more than a relationship with God, it would be very difficult for that person to come to Jesus given the rejection that would inevitably follow.
- There could be no casual decision for Christ because it automatically came with a cost.
- Comparative point: True disciple of Jesus in a cultural “Christian” nation, in Islamic Republic, Hindu nation, etc.



Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

- **Cost of True Discipleship vs. Gift of Salvation?**
- **Paul says plainly that the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23). Salvation is a free gift from God. How can salvation be free and still cost you everything?**
 - **Reconciling the teaching of free salvation with a salvation that costs you everything, requires a correct understanding of faith.**
 - **Faith in Christ means that you have a special relationship to Him, to the gift. The relationship that is mentioned here is that of a disciple (learner, pupil, student) to a master (teacher).**
 - **'If anyone comes to Me...' The expression 'come to Me' refers to the entering into a relationship of trust. This is what faith is about, trust in another and entry into relationship with that person. And here, we are talking about a relational discipleship, a relationship that involves a disciple and his master.**
 - **As with any relationship, faith in an ongoing affair. With free moral agency, we are not free of the consequences of our choices.**

Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

- **Faith: A Relationship**
- **“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” John 7:37-38.**
 - **‘Come to Me’ contextually means ‘acknowledge Me as King.’
Come / Accompany to Him and submit your life to Him.**
- **Matthew 11:28-29 ‘Come to Me. Learn of Me. Take My yoke upon you. And then you will have peace.’**
 - **Come to Jesus means to take His yoke upon you. It means that you establish a relationship of faith and doing whatever you commands us to do, while we acknowledge Him as the Master of your life.**

Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

- **Faith: An Example of Relationship**
- **Three times in succession, Jesus repeats conditions that someone 'cannot be My disciple' (Luke 14:26, 27, 33). Put positively, only those who are willing to renounce all for the sake of Christ can truly be called disciples.**
- **One of many examples of Godly Faith is Abraham.**
 - **Paul uses Abraham as a definition of faith in many places. What was Abraham's faith? Hebrews 11:8-11. When God called Abraham, Abraham left. (Genesis 12:1-5 that he left his country, his family, his father's household – he hated them – to go to a land he knew nothing about.)**
 - **He left everything to obey God's word. Abraham was truly a disciple who had a relationship with God. He had faith.**

Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

- **Faith: A Ongoing Responsive Relationship That Becomes Friendship**
- **Faith is the response of a person to God's call (Parable of the Guests; earlier in Luke 14). When God said, 'Go,' Abraham went. By his response, he entered into a relationship with God.**
 - **James 2:21-24** "...You see that faith was working with his works...and Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'And Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness' and he was called the friend of God...".
 - **John 15:12-17** "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you...You are My friends if you do what I command you...but, I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father, I have made known to you..."

Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Luke 14:25-35

- **Assess the Cost and Be a Committed Disciple of Jesus**
- **Jesus does not want disciples who do not know what they are getting into when they decide to follow Him. There is a cost, a cost that each disciple must assess before they makes up their mind to commit to be a disciple of Jesus.**
- **In order to highlight this point, Jesus teaches two parables.**
 - **Building of a Tower: We do not make any decision before assessing whether we are ready to take on the personal commitment and sacrifice required to follow Jesus.**
 - **Going to War: We must think through the consequences of a decision to follow Christ. It would be foolish not to consider what it will take to be a disciple.**

Parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship

■ Our Responsibility

- The parables of Counting the Costs for Discipleship do not appear to be meant to discourage anyone from discipleship. They were meant to teach us that becoming a disciple is the most important commitment that a person can make and it deserves to be given at least as much thought as we would give to any important decision in life.
- Discipleship cannot be based only on emotions and shallow enthusiasm.
- A true disciple must make Jesus Christ the number one priority of life. This means literally and figuratively – family relationships, possessions, even their own life - total commitment.



Group Discussion

