

## Counting the Cost

Luke 14:16-35

11/5/00

### Intro

Jesus had just finished teaching about the importance of humility and a man at the table declares how blessed it will be to attend the great banquet feast when the Messiah comes.

Jesus then confronts the assumption behind the man's words, "That he would be sitting at that great feast if he had refused God's invitation."

This, then is the right place for Luke to write about the cost of being a true disciple of Christ.

**This is about the importance of counting the cost of following Jesus.**

### **I. God is Inviting Us To Be With Him.**

Vs 18-20

A. Excuses are designed to make us sound good.

- In the end, Jesus is exposing the motive behind excuses by showing how silly they sound.

B. If we don't want to go, we should just say so.

C. We're going to spend eternity with the Lord. Do we want to spend time with Him now?

- In God's presence is where our lives see the greatest change.

### **Illus- What caused Death Valley to bloom?**

### **II. Discipleship is About Having Christ be First in Our Lives.**

Vs 26

A. Jesus is talking about relationship with God in comparison to earthly relationships.

- We're often closer to our Christian family than our natural family.

Vs 33

B. Jesus also compares relationship with God to earthly possessions.

- Sand is worldliness. Keep the salt salty.

**Illus** - A few years ago, a couple I know lost their house in a fire. Fortunately, they were able to snatch all the kids out just before the whole thing collapsed. They stood out on the sidewalk hugging and kissing and thanking God. Why? Because despite the fact that they had lost their shelter, they had not lost their treasure, which was their kids.

C. Jesus is asking for first place in our lives.

**Illus-** A demonstration about rocks in a jar.

### **III. Don't Let Sand Get in the Salt.**

(Jesus refers to believers as salt. Paul talks about grace as salt.)

Vs 34-35

A. Salt was a very important part of their lives.

- The Phrase, "He's worth his salt" comes from the days when even wages would be paid with salt.

B. Salt loses its saltiness when it gets diluted with sand.

### Conclusion

**Consider the cost of becoming a follower of Jesus Christ.**

**But we should also remember what we gain.**

**Is it worth it?**