

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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**February 20, 2022**

### **“Counting The Cost Of Obedience”**

By Brian Meade

Jesus begins to outline what true discipleship will cost His followers in Luke 14, *“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:25-27)*

These were some of the requirements that one would have to be willing to do in order to become a disciple of Jesus. From this, we learn that obedience will cost us something. To follow Jesus is not without restrictions, rules, obligations, and even some suffering for His name (2 Timothy 3:12).

Jesus is telling the would-be disciple that He must come first before even his closest family relationship. “To hate” in this context simply means to love less in a comparative sense. Jesus is not asking us to stop giving the proper love for our family and our own life too, but only when there is a conflict of interest in doing His will. What I mean by that, Jesus wants us to be willing and able to follow Him, even when our family and our own interests do not agree.

There may be times in our life that we must make difficult decisions in regard to family and convenience. If remaining loyal to the family means we would disobey Jesus, that cost must be counted and paid. If what would be pleasing to me, but displeasing to Christ—the same is true!

Jesus goes on to illustrate the cost of discipleship even further as He says, *“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—<sup>29</sup> lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ (Luke 14:28-30)*

Jesus plainly tells us there are costs that must be considered before starting to walk with Him. We must all think carefully before we start, about what devotion and obedience to King Jesus might ask of us. He uses the logic of calculating the cost of building a tower to make it plain that we need to finish what we start. To start a tower and later realize that it would require more materials and resources than we have would lead to ruin and shame!

So that’s why Jesus wants us to think ahead and reason, “Am I able to do this, even when it is difficult?” “Am I willing to put in the time necessary to worship and work in His kingdom?” “Can I still remain faithful when my parents and friends hate me for my faith?” These are questions we must ask ourselves in counting the cost.

It is along this line, that a few that I have seen in my own experiences with those obeying the gospel, some will start and then you never see them again. It is just as Jesus said it would be— some will not be willing to pay the price!

Some may never consider that faithfulness to Jesus requires that I worship collectively with brethren on every first day of the week (Acts 2:42; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). But even more than that, worship and devotion is a daily commitment with the Lord (Acts 5:42; 16:5; 17:11; 17:17; 19:9; 1 Cor. 15:31).



But on the other side, I have seen many who count the cost and pay it every day!

In the parable of the sower, Jesus tells us, *“These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.”* (Mark 4:16-17). I have often thought about these ones who start out and never consider the difficulties they might encounter. And when they come, they simply leave and may even remark, “Well, I never signed up for this!” That’s what superficial faith does. And this may be an indictment of preaching an easy-to-follow Jesus approach that lowers the bar and expectations for superficial faith. We must prepare those to truly follow the Lord! Otherwise, we do them a disfavor.

Jesus further tells us, *“Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.”* (Luke 14:31-32)

Here, Jesus illustrates again the need for planning and follow through in going to war with another king. As we think about the decision and very big commitment that goes with it, our success or failure could hinge on every decision. And to think of the much planning and strategy that is need to undertake such an undertaking! The moving of troops, equipment, and supplies *necessary to support them. It would be that spies might be sent to see the troop level and conditions of the city. But the only factor Jesus uses here is the number of troops that each king may have for war. I believe in some sense it would be very rash to make war with a king with 20,000 troops, especially when you only have 10,000. I wonder how many rulers have rashly gone to war, without really thinking it through, and living to regret the defeat.*

That may even be warning to would be disciples to not be rash in their decision to say they would follow Him and fail for lack of fortitude.

Much like what we read of in Luke 9:57-61, *“As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, “I will follow You wherever You go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” 59 And He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.” 60 But He said to him, “Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.” 61 Another also said, “I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.” 62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

Jesus is actually cautioning these to count the cost before making such a big commitment to follow Him. He is telling them that the road you must travel in walking with Me is not an easy one of comfort and convenience.

Even Peter, the disciple of great faith, showed some rashness to the Lord, as he heard Jesus say that all the disciple will forsake Him that night. Paul then remarks, *“Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”* (Matthew 26:33). But as we know, Peter would deny the Lord as Jesus predicted (Matthew 26:34—26:75).

And now we come to the last verse in our study of counting the cost, Luke 14:33, *“So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

Jesus is warning us that nothing can be ahead of our devotion to Him; that all must be forsaken in the sense of priority. Jesus is saying to us today, that to be a disciple of Mine means I am your main priority in life.

That doesn’t automatically mean we have to forsake our job, our wife, our husband, our sister, or our brother to follow Him. But where there are conflicts of interest and sacrifices for our service to God, we must do so in obedience.

One great example of this is the rich, young ruler, who came to Jesus wanting to know how to have eternal life (Matthew 19:16). Jesus told him to keep the commandments (vs. 17-19).

After that, *“The young man said to Him, All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor; and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”* (Matthew 19:20-22).

This encounter in the life of Jesus is recorded for us, so that we remember to count the cost and give full obedience to Christ.

May we make every effort to be pleasing to Him!

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, Earl Mitchell, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles.  
Sandra Oliver had her surgery the 16th and is recovering.  
Nannette Chancellor has requested our prayers, as she has been diagnosed with cancer in her left eye.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** “Divine Rules And Exceptions”

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

Fred Johnson  
2 Corinthians (Mike Willis)  
*Page #49 Question #14*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Doug George  
*Matthew 6:24*  
**Song Leader:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Lord’s Supper:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Assisting:** — —  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** “The Loyalty Of Jesus”  
**Closing Prayer:** Paul Busby

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**February 23rd:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Paul Busby  
**Workbook:** Book of Isaiah  
**Starting Page & Question:** *Page #78 Question #1*  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Russell Briggs  
**Closing Prayer:** Blake Briggs

# ***“Divine Rules And Exceptions”***

## **I. Rule: Christ Has All Authority.**

- A. Christ Has Been Given *“All Authority.”* **Matthew 7:28-29; 28:18; Eph. 1:20-23.**
- B. God, The Father, Is The Only Exception To The Rule- **1 Cor. 15:27-28; 11:3.**
- C. Everyone Else Must Submit To Christ- **Philippians 2:9-11.**
- D. Is The Pope Or Others An Exception To This Rule? \_\_\_\_\_.

## **II. Rule: Marriage Is For Life.**

- A. Marriage Is A Life-Long Commitment- **Rom. 7:1-4; 1 Cor. 7:39; Matthew 19:6.**
- B. The Lord Added The Cause Of Fornication The Only Exception- **Matt. 5:32; 19:9.**
- C. Some Have Tried To Add Exceptions- *“That Was Just Under The Law of Moses.”*  
*“If he’s a sinner.” “All Marriages Are Honorable.” “God wants me to be happy!”*

## **III. Rule: Death Will Pass Upon All.**

- A. **Ecclesiastes 9:5; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22.**
- B. Enoch And Elijah Was The Only Two Exceptions.  
**Genesis 5:22-24; Hebrews 11:5; 2 Kings 2:11.**
- C. Those Living When Christ Returns- **1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17.**
- D. Science Medical Research Looks For Another Exception- **Ecclesiastes 8:8.**

## **IV. Rule: All Men Will Resurrect On The Last Day.**

- A. **John 5:28-29; 11:24; Acts 24:15.**
- B. Jesus Christ Is The Only Exception To This Rule- **Matthew 28:6.**
- C. The Only One Resurrected To Never Die Again- **Romans 6:9.**
- D. He Is The First-fruits- **1 Corinthians 15:20.**

## **V. Rule: All Have Sinned.**

- A. Sin Is A Universal Condition For All Men.  
**Romans 3:9-12; 3:23; Galatians 3:22; 1 John 1:8.**
- B. Jesus Is The Only Exception To This Rule- **2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15.**
- C. This Qualifies Him To Be The Only Perfect Sacrifice, Savior, And Example.
- D. Some Seem To Think They Are The Exception.
  - Atheist, Hedonist, and Even Some Christians- **Galatians 6:7-8.**

# ***“Jesus’ Loyalty”***

**Loyal:** giving or showing firm and constant support or allegiance to a person or institution.

## **I. Jesus Was Loyal To The Truth.**

- His Faithfulness To The Word- **Matthew 4:4; 4:7; 4:10.**
- Grace And Truth Came Through Him- **John 1:17.**
- Why He Is The Way, Truth, and Life For Us- **John 14:6.**
- He Prayed For It (**John 17:20**); Lived For It (**Matthew 4:4**); Suffered and Died For It!

## **II. Jesus Was Loyal To His Disciples.**

- The Disciples Were His Friends- **John 15:14.**
- They Took Priority Over Even Family- **Matthew 12:47-50.**
- He Was Accused Of Being A Friend To Tax Collectors & Sinners- **Matt. 11:19; Mark 2:14.**
- When Betrayed, Jesus Was Still Loyal To Them- **John 18:8-9.**
- Jesus Loved Them To The End- **John 13:1-2.**

## **III. Jesus Was Loyal To His Church.**

- Jesus Had A Strong Connection To His Church:
  1. The Church Was Founded By Him- **Matthew 16:18.**
  2. He Is The Head Of The Church- **Colossians 1:18.**
  3. He Loved The Church- **Ephesians 5:25.**
  4. He Gave Himself For Her- **Ephesians 5:25-27.**
  5. He Loved The Church More Than His Own Body- **John 10:11.**

## **IV. Jesus Was Loyal To His Father.**

- He Was Faithful To His Mission- **Luke 19:10; John 10:10; John 12:27.**
- He Did As The Father Directed- **John 12:49-50.**
- He Pleas'd The Father- **John 8:29; Matthew 17:5.**

**Conclusion:** We Can Learn Much From Jesus’ Loyalty!