

Sunday Message Mediation
November 23, 2014

Text: Luke 14:25-35.

Message Meditation:

1. If you want to be Jesus' disciple:
 - a. Jesus comes first. He is before every relationship and above all priorities.
 - b. You carry the cross of identifying with Him.
 - c. You count the cost before you begin. You don't want to start and not finish.
 - d. You give up everything.
2. The cost of being a disciple of Jesus is the inevitable death that comes from identifying with Him. We give up everything and gain Him. He is our reward, and every promise of God is "yes" in Jesus.
3. The cost of identifying with Jesus is high. If they hated Him, they will hate those who identify with Him. While the cost is high, there is grace to persevere.

Grace to carry on:

 - a. The example of Jesus; the success of Jesus; the presence of Jesus.
 - b. The power of the Holy Spirit as we believe God's promises and walk in the Word.
 - c. The joy that comes when we are persecuted for Jesus and for righteousness.
 - d. The "great crowd of witnesses" and the fellowship of God's people.
 - e. The Word of God and prayer.
 - f. The expectation of Jesus' return and the anticipation of seeing God and experiencing His glory.

Questions for Thought & Application:

1. How does Jesus paying for your discipleship with His blood influence your desire of picking up your cross and following Him?
(Some people seek to carry their cross as a form of repayment, while others carry their cross as a matter of joyful identification with Jesus who has gone before. How does a right attitude toward the cross influence your motivation to persevere?)
2. What grace is found in Romans 8:18-39 that influences your attitude toward carrying your cross today?