

All for One, One for All and All for Him *What is a Disciple?*

*25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-yes, even his own life-he cannot be my disciple. 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. 34 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." **Luke 14:25-35***

Parables. That is what you just read. They are short stories which contain deeper meanings. So what do these parables mean? Do they literally mean you should hate your father or mother? NO !!! In order to really gain insight into the truth contained in these parables you must read them as a unit. What do they have in common? What is the unified thread between the three stories?

Are you really hating your parents, wife or children or just putting God first? Are you really building a tower or planning to finish what you start? Are you really going to war or are you learning that war, spiritual war, will cost you all you have?

Think about it, the tower story sums it up when it states, "estimate the costs". Discipleship, becoming a disciple (follower) of Jesus, simply put, costs you all you have (also see verse 33). These parables teach that you must first realize that following Him will cost you and then once you realize it and accept it, you become a true disciple. This is why most people come to Christ, when things are bad, when their life is in the pits, when they feel they have no other hope. They figure, God's way must be better than this. The real Disciples of Christ come to Him not only when things are bad but when things are good, because they know that He is good.

So what will you decide? The truth is this, His way is better. When you let Christ become Lord of your life, in short, you "kneel" before the King, the true King of the universe and then He can start rebuilding a newer better you. The real question is this, will you let Him?