

“Have YOU Counted the Cost?”

Luke 14:25-35 Sunday AM, March 8, 2026

Prelude: Scripture: Luke 14:22-35 (NASB95) “And the slave said, ‘Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ 23 “And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled. 24 ‘For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.’ ” 25 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 “Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 “Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 “So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. 34 “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 “It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Can you imagine having Jesus for dinner? Can you imagine being respected enough as one of the spiritual leaders to have the means and opportunity to have Him to your home? Now can you imagine Him in the presence of other respected guests publicly address motives behind where people sit and who was invited? Among those you invite should be those WITHOUT ability to repay you in ANY way. Deal with people with an eye toward imitating God and seeking His promised future reward. Perhaps to clear the tension, one exclaimed, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” Jesus doesn’t let up but leans in farther. Yes, about those blessed, make sure you show up to eat in the kingdom of God. There was a great man who invited many to a great dinner who traded that honor for other priorities. . . . Excuses. The first one . . . ‘I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.’ 19 “Another . . . ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.’ 20 “Another one said, ‘I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.’ In great anger at this great insult, the man told his servant to invite those NOT invited who DIDN’T have means to repay and who WOULD come. And so to you, from the same character of complete preeminence and lovingkindness comes God’s message, “Come to the banquet—I have done all necessary for you to come.” What an honor! What is between you and joyful thanksgiving to God for this invitation, aligning your life so this banquet is your highest priority? Sing the song we are learning based on Psalm 126 and Isaiah 25:6-9—a picture where believer’s hopes are ultimately fulfilled in the Revelation 19 marriage supper of the Lamb.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): We Will Feast in the House of Zion**

Today, we hear the familiar but perhaps rarely in front of our mind realities of the high cost of discipleship. “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. What will make you hesitate, even stop following Jesus? Count the cost, do you have enough for the building, do you have enough for the battle? Jesus WILL be first. Is that what you want? Think on these words as you sing and pray for whatever is between you and them. If this IS your desire, walk these words.

***Hymn #377: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: I’m Free Scripture: Deuteronomy 7:1–21**

(NASB95) “When the LORD your God brings you into the land where you are entering to possess it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than you, 2 and when the LORD your God delivers them before you and you defeat them, then you shall utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them. 3 “Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. 4 “For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you. 5 “But thus you shall do to them: you shall tear down their altars, and smash their sacred pillars, and hew down their Asherim, and burn their graven images with fire. 6 “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 “Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; 10 but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face. 11 “Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today, to do them. 12 “Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers. 13 “He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you. 14 “You shall be blessed above all peoples; there will be no male or female barren among you or among your cattle. 15 “The LORD will remove from you all sickness; and He will not put on you any of the harmful diseases of Egypt which you have known, but He will lay them on all who hate you. 16 “You shall consume all the peoples whom the LORD your God will deliver to you; your eye shall not pity them, nor shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you. 17 “If you should say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?’ 18 you shall not be afraid of them; you shall well remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: 19 the great trials which your eyes saw and the signs and the wonders and the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. 20 “Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet against them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you perish. 21 “You shall not dread them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.

Offering: *Doxology:

What did you hear as Deuteronomy was read? Was it a privilege or dread to be the people of God? Do NOT marry THEM, do NOT worship their gods, KNOW and KEEP His commandments because you are a holy people. OR did you hear, God chose you not because YOU were great, but to display His great love and the trustworthiness of His word to and through you? Live with these realities and you will see His blessing on you, your family, your health, the land, and protection from your enemies. ALL described must be included for those truly following God. The focus is ALWAYS on the One who calls and keeps. See this and you WILL be free as the choir sang. From this freedom, you WILL praise Him!

***Hymn #224 (Red): I Know Whom I Have Believed**

You may be seated. You are a holy people, Moses recorded God saying to the people of Israel. You were chosen by me and cared for by me, not merely for yourselves, but to display my holy greatness. The same theme arises in I Peter 2—you called under the new covenant are a chosen people, the KJV called us a peculiar people. A special people, a people for God own possession so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. That mission is NOT optional and we are to do it together while He works the character of His Son in us. This is not worked in us merely individually OR together, but individually AND together. This interweaving of His work in us alone together WITH the people of God makes for less individualism AND less group think resulting in a thick aura of God. In sermon on the mount terms, salt that is salty, light that is light. You have no other option. Be part of this OR, as our passage ends today, . . . salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 “It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Salty or worthless, which are you? No, WHOSE are you?

***Hymn (Powerpoint): I Am Not My Own**

Message: “Have YOU Counted the Cost?” Luke 14:25-35 *Hymn #26: A Mighty Fortress is Our God *Prayer