



The Life and Commitment of a Disciple

#1

Paul J. Bucknell

Luke 14:1-35

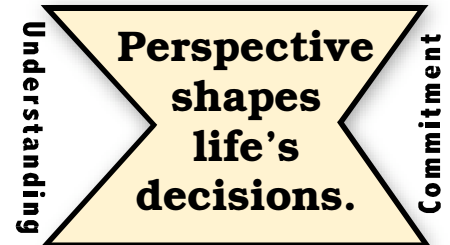
- A.) The Life of the Disciple (14:1-14)
- B.) The Commitment of the Disciple (14:15-35)

Maturity is gained as we gain perspective on life. As we grow up, we meet people who speak different languages, have a different set of morals, and learn how to establish and maintain good relationships with others.

Maturity is the ability to use one's faculties to rightly live in any situation. Unfortunately, many don't even reach this point of maturity. Or if they do, they stop short in their understanding. Jesus knows that we also need to be spiritually mature. This takes us beyond simple social experiences and enables us to live as God wants.

Jesus prods His listeners into maturity as they are exposed to three 'ethics' of God's kingdom (Luke 14:1-14) and are challenged to deepen their commitment to Jesus Christ in two ways (Luke 14:15-35). Luke 14 records teaching that enables each of us to take the steps of discipleship and follow Jesus no matter where our starting point is.

Jesus provides two insights into the challenges facing those that need to make a deeper commitment to live for Him.



A.) The Life of the Disciple (14:1-14)

Jesus teaches three key aspects on being a disciple.

1) The Law of Mercy (14:1-6)

Jesus is not really focusing here on healing or the sabbath. He does incidentally teach about these things. His message, however, goes deeper. Let's see what this first principle is that Jesus highlights here.

- What was Jesus' circumstances like in Luke 14:1?
- Do you think He liked being there? Why or why not?
- Who did Jesus discover there (Luke 14:2)?
- What is dropsy (edema)? Look it up if needed.
- Do you think this man was one of the leaders or not? Why so?
- What did Jesus do about this awkward situation (Luke 14:3-4)?
- What was the illustration and principle Jesus referred to in Luke 14:5?
- Two times the leaders of the Pharisees are said to be silent (14:4, 6). Is this typical or unusual? Why were they quiet these times? Was it for the same or different reasons?

"Which one of you ... will not immediately pull him out ..." (Luke 14:5).

Application

- * Summarize this principle of God's kingdom found here in your own words.
- * How well do you live this principle out?

Jesus used the picture of one of their ox falling into the well because Jesus knew full well that each of them would try to save and help their animals. Big financial issues were at stake. Jesus was highlighting their willingness to 'break the sabbath' for their own profit but unwilling to think twice about the sabbath when it came down to caring for the needs of a fellow man. Jesus' main teaching is to show them the grand law of mercy and reveal their lack of living it out.

From Luke 14:1, it seems apparent that this was a set up. This was not any simple honest gathering of the Pharisees. The leaders had invited Jesus there and placed this desperate man in front of them. They, like a fisherman, watched their line very closely. They "were watching Him closely."



The Life and Commitment of a Disciple

#2

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Luke 14:7-15

A.) The Life of the Disciple (14:1-14)

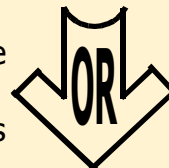
2) The Principle of Humbling Oneself (14:7-11)

Jesus exposed our secret (or not so secret) desire to be admired. Acceptance by others is important to us all. However, making oneself look important in order to be accepted is not proper. When one focuses on oneself, he cannot focus on the needs of others. His preoccupation of gaining acceptance interferes with his ability to love and care for others. Jesus clearly identifies two principles which should shape our lives.

- What did Jesus notice in Luke 14:7?
- How did Jesus respond to that situation (Luke 14:8-10)?
- Have you every seen this kind of thing happen? If so, share.
- Jesus identifies two important principles in Luke 14:11. Name them.
- What does it mean to 'exalt oneself?' Give an example.
- What does it mean to 'humbles himself?' Give an example.

We only can focus in one direction at a time.

Either we focus on ourselves



focus on the needs of others.

"Everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled and he who humbles himself shall be exalted." (Luke 14:5).

Application

* The hardest time to activate these principles in real life is when everyone else around you does not observe them. It is at this point that one can feel 'left out' or forgotten by God. How does this verse build up our faith so that we can rightly live out our lives by humbling ourselves?

* Why is this verse so important to those in God's kingdom?

* Acknowledge your desire to be liked, accepted and even admired. Confess where you have allowed these desires to blind you to meeting the needs of others. Commit yourself to serving even if others don't notice you.

3) The Heart of Being Gracious (14:12-15)

Jesus again exposed how the spirit of the world strongly influenced these religious leaders. They must have not had a very pleasant party! Jesus real purpose was to enable people to live to be a blessing. In order to do this, one has to trust God to care for and reward oneself so that one is no longer preoccupied with oneself but the serving others.

- Where was Jesus when all this happened (Luke 14:12)?
- What did Jesus actually instruct others (Luke 14:12-14)?
- Why might He have said such things?
- Do you think He might have offended someone? Wasn't He concerned about this?
- What is the purpose behind Jesus' teaching?
- What does being 'repaid at the resurrection' mean?
- Why is this hope so crucial to right living?

Application

* Do you give to be rewarded by others or by God in the future? Give evidence for your answer.

**Try it!
You'll like it!**

