

Luke 14:25-25

“Commitment”

September 4, 2016

The devil, the world and our sinful flesh take the lives of our parents, our spouses, our children and our grandchildren and sadly we blame God. We say that He should not have allowed it to happen. The devil, the world and our sinful flesh cause wars and rumors of wars and we blame God because we believe that He should not have allowed it. The devil, the world and our sinful flesh cause us to abuse one another, become alcoholics and drug abusers with all the problems that go with these abuses and we blame God because we believe that He should have not allowed it. Our political parties blame others and we allow it because we are a society that has trouble taking responsibility for ourselves and recognizing the influence of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh.

In our text we are told that we should love God before everything else in our lives including our parents, our spouse, our family and our personal pleasure. When we love God above all things, we learn not to blame God for the work of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh in our lives. When we love God above all things we learn to take responsibility for our lives, our words and our actions. When we love God above all things we learn to forgive as we are forgiven by our God through the Blood of Christ on the Cross at Calvary.

In our text we are encouraged to count the cost before we commit ourselves to being followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have expressed some of that cost already. We are to love our God above all things even when things go wrong in our lives instead of blaming Him for allowing it to happen. We are to love our God above all things even when it means that we take responsibility for our lives and face the consequences. We are to love God above all things even when most of the world rejects us and our beliefs. We are to love God above all things even when we face persecution and death because we are followers of Christ. It is sad that we would rather redefine God's Word rather than face the rejection of the world.

As I was thinking about this sermon, I realize that I envy those who do believers baptism at a later age verses an infant baptism. They are able to count the cost before they commit to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Then I hear that they may be rebaptized more than once because they fell back into the sinful ways and they were unsure if they believed when they were first baptized. I have come to realize that we don't really know the cost of following Jesus Christ until we face it. In fact there are times when we sin, knowingly sin and it takes a while to repent and recommit to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We live in His undeserved grace and mercy.

Sadly there are those who fall away from their commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and never return. We see that the cost to them of following

Christ was too great and they left. Sadly the one that hurts the most is our God who grieves when anyone falls way. Sadly the one that hurts the most is our God who now has those who reject Him still carrying His name. We are called a Christian nation. Only one out of five worship Christ on an average Sunday. We are no longer a Christian nation but the world sees Christ in our words and actions as a nation. Yes our nation saddens Him. Those without a repentant spirit sadden Him. Those without the repentant spirit will find that He will not forgive or share eternity with them.

I tell you these words because they are fact. I am not trying to scare people into heaven with the threat of hell. The undeserved grace and mercy of our God draws us to heaven. The sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross at Calvary draws us to heaven. The witness of those who are Christians in more than name only draw us to heaven. We can tell the difference between hypocrites and Christians who live their faith in Jesus Christ in their daily lives. Therefore count the cost, then be a witness or be honest with those around you and reject Christ. When you wake up and see Christ as Lord and Savior, He will always welcome us back. However, He warns us that to fall away from our relationship with Him will lead to a state where it is very hard to come back and recommit to Him. We thank God for His undeserved grace and mercy because while we find it hard to go back to Him, He easily welcomes us back. Amen