

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are some common excuses used today for not coming to the Lord?
2. What means does the Lord use to call people to His service?
3. How do we know when we are called by God?
4. How does it feel to be called by God?

SUMMARY:

The loving gift of salvation has been prepared by God, through His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He makes available to all men everywhere. He lovingly calls mankind to Himself. Any that would hear His voice, may come. The invitation is extended, with the blessings of acceptance and the cost of rejection. While there may be many excuses for not accepting Christ, there are no valid reasons. How terrible to be turned aside on that last day by "I know you not." How wonderful, how blessed, to be one of those to experience His wonderful grace today, in being resurrected to eternal glory and everlasting bliss in heaven, in the eternal life to come.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #1

January 4, 2004

First Quarter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

LESSON TEXT: *Luke 14:15-24*

LESSON SETTING: In the vicinity of Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D.

- I. THE INVITATION OFFERED.** Luke 14:15-17
 - A. The Gift Prepared. John 3:16; 4:10; Romans 6:23
 - B. Available to All. Luke 3:6; Romans 10:13; 2 Peter 3:9
 - C. The Loving Call. Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Corinthians 5:20
Revelation 3:20, 22:17
- II. THE INVITATION DECLINED.** Luke 14:18-20
 - A. Excuses. Matthew 25:44-45
 - B. Worldly Fullness. Ezekiel 16:49; Revelation 3:17
 - C. Rewards for Rejection. Hebrews 2:2-3; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9
- III. THE INVITATION ACCEPTED.** Luke 14:18-20
 - A. Rewards for Acceptance
 1. His Grace - Ephesians 1:7; 2:7; Philippians 4:19
 2. Resurrection - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
 3. Heaven - Revelation 7:13-17; 22:5-7

GOLDEN TEXT: COME; FOR ALL THINGS ARE NOW READY.

Luke 14:17

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 14:25-35

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 37:1-40; Matthew 10:1-42;
Romans 12:1-16

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Son of Man

TOPIC: COUNTING THE COST OF COMMITMENT

INTRODUCTION:

When we consider the cost of following Christ, it means giving up all material things that mean so much to an unconverted person. But giving up the desires of a fleshly heart to receive the spiritual desires is in reality a glorious gain. Our hearts when motivated by the Holy Spirit have no desires for the things they had when they were motivated by the flesh.

We are giving up the foolish things that gratify the flesh for perhaps seventy or eighty years, for eternal life—timeless and endless. There is no comparison, therefore no loss. We are free of sinful burdens, worries, cares, etc. He shares the burdens. We are told to “be careful for nothing,” that “all things will be added unto you.” He does all “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.” This is what we receive in this life, and what a glorious life of eternity to look forward to in hope and faith.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Those who follow Christ must be willing to give up everything for His sake.

GOLDEN TEXT: WHOSOEVER HE BE OF YOU THAT FORSAKE NOT ALL THAT HE HATH, HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.

Luke 14:33

Jesus requires the undivided loyalty of His disciples. Therefore, He asks us to count the cost of our commitment to Him. He knows that if we really weigh the value of salvation against all that the world can offer, we will be willing to give up all that would hinder our service to Him. He also knows the temptations we will encounter as we would surrender our lives to Him. Satan tempted Jesus with worldly possessions and glory, but Jesus was able to overcome. He will also help us to be victorious and true disciples.

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15-16)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 5 - 11

- M. *Counting the Cost of Commitment. Luke 14:25-35
- T. The Life of Commitment. Psalm 37:1-7
- W. Rewards of Commitment. Psalm 37:8-20
- T. Guidance through Commitment. Psalm 37:21-31
- F. Protection Through Commitment. Romans 6:11-23
- S. Service Through Commitment. Romans 12:1-16
- S. The Result of Commitment. 2 Timothy 4:6-8