

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What did the Lord mean by “hating one’s relatives?”
2. What was meant by “hating one’s own life?”
3. What must one do to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?
4. What are the costs of being a follower of Christ?
5. What is the “savour” of the salt?

SUMMARY:

The words spoken by the Lord Jesus in this scripture seem hard, and yet He is requiring of each person that comes to Him to leave all behind and yield himself in completeness to Him. He asks that we consider first and count the cost to see if we are willing to pay the price of complete surrender in coming to Him. Each one must take up his cross and follow Him bearing the fruit of faith, which becomes the salt seasoning of the earth.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #2

January 11, 2004

First Quarter

COUNTING THE COST OF COMMITMENT

LESSON TEXT: *Luke 14:25-35*

LESSON SETTING: In the vicinity of Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D.

- I. COMMITMENT, A RESPONSIBILITY.** Luke 14:25-27
 - A. Self-Sacrifice. Matthew 16:24-25; Romans 14:21; 1 Corinthians 10:24
 - B. God’s Claims First - Numbers 3:13; 1 Kings 17:13; Matthew 6:33
 - C. Must Bear the Cross. Matthew 10:38; Mark 10:21
- II. COUNTING THE COST RECOMMENDED.** Luke 14:28-32
 - A. Forethought. Proverbs 22:3; Luke 12:33
 - B. Prudence. Proverbs 14:15; Hosea 14:9
 - C. Counsel. Proverbs 12:15; 15:22
- III. COMPLETE COMMITMENT REQUIRED.** Luke 14:33-35
 - A. Leaving All. Luke 5:27-28; 18:29-30; Philippians 3:8
 - B. Discipleship. John 8:31; 15:8
 - C. Good Influence Essential. 1 Corinthians 7:16; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 11:4

GOLDEN TEXT: WHOSOEVER HE BE OF YOU THAT FORSAKETH NOT ALL THAT HE HATH, HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE. Luke 14:33

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 15:1-32

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Chronicles 33:1-13;
Isaiah 55:1-13; Jeremiah 3:1-15

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Son of Man

TOPIC: REPENTANCE BRINGS REJOICING

INTRODUCTION:

We read of the prodigal son, individuals, kings and nations of the Bible, who disobeyed God and fell into horrible sin. Why do so many first wish to taste of forbidden sins and then in desperation seek the Lord? Very often they have to suffer the consequences of the sins for life.

We see our loved ones heading headlong into sin, but seemingly cannot help. But what joy there is when we see them in deep repentance and turning to their Lord. What mighty promises God gave the people of the Old Testament if and when they repented and turned to Him. He received them in mercy and saved them. Christ did the same to the New Testament people and does so still today. How His heart rejoices when He receives them as His own. Our joy here is great for a lost one who accepts Christ, but it can't be compared to the joy in heaven among the angels and with our Lord.

CENTRAL TRUTH: There is happiness in heaven when even one sinner comes to God.

GOLDEN TEXT: JOY SHALL BE IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER THAT REPENTETH, MORE THAN OVER NINETY AND NINE JUST PERSONS, WHICH NEED NO REPENTANCE. Luke 15:7

One might wonder why the hosts of heaven have such joy in the repentant sinner, even more than in many who have never strayed from the laws of God and man. Surely it must be because of the great love Christ has for sinners and the high price He paid for our redemption. One always values most that which was obtained at the greatest cost. Our forgiveness was purchased at the price of Jesus' life and blood. Therefore, God yearns for us to 'come to ourselves' and seek His pardon. That's why angels are watching and waiting for each prodigal to return. What grief it must cause the Saviour for each sinner for whom His blood was shed in vain.

Though we are each such a tiny part of God's creation, we can cause joy in heaven by returning to God through Christ our Saviour.

Why shouldn't the angels rejoice at our return? "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 12 - 18

M. *The Lost Restored. Luke 15:1-10

T. *The Lost Son. Luke 15:11-19

W. *The Son's Return. Luke 15:20-24

T. *The Father's Rejoicing. Luke 15:25-32

F. The Way of Salvation. Romans 1:1-17

S. The Way of Justification. Romans 5:1-11

S. The Way of Security. Romans 8:1-17