

- However, we cannot love anything or anyone, more than we love God.
- Jesus goes on to give two illustrations about counting the costs.
  1. Vv. 28-30 - A man that counted the cost before beginning to build a tower.
  2. Vv. 31-32 - A king that counted the cost before sending his soldiers to war.
- Jesus brings it home for you and me with v. 33, "In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he had cannot be my disciple."
- This verse implies that there is a "cost" for being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and it is really expensive.
- On one hand, we have Paul teaching that we have a free "gift" and on the other hand Jesus is teaching that being one of His disciples requires that we "give up everything." That's expensive!
- So, which is it Free or Expensive?
- Before we answer that question, let's read the parable that Jesus taught right before the text we just read.

### **Luke 14:15-24**

<sup>15</sup>When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God." <sup>16</sup>Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup>At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' <sup>18</sup>"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' <sup>19</sup>"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' <sup>20</sup>"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' <sup>21</sup>"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' <sup>22</sup>" 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' <sup>23</sup>"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. <sup>24</sup>I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' "I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

- The answer to whether or not salvation is free or expensive, is found in this parable.
- Vv. 16-17 - Here we see that a man was having a banquet and he invited many guests.
- Vv. 18-20 – However when it came time for the guest to go to the banquet, they all had more important things to do.
- See each and every one of these guests had “free tickets” to this banquet, however it still came at a cost.
- They had to prioritize and give up some of the things that they were doing.
- None of them were willing to put aside their personal agendas to attend the “free banquet.”
- Vv. 21-23 – So, the banquet was opened up to the poor, crippled, blind, lame, and ultimately to everyone.
- This is a perfect illustration of salvation. Everyone has the opportunity to receive the free gift of eternal life, however, not everyone is willing to give up their own agendas to follow Christ.
- Salvation is free in that there is nothing we can do to earn it or pay for it.
- It is expensive in that God requires us to surrender everything to Him and to put Him first in our lives.
- We must be willing to give up everyone and everything in this world for Christ, and that includes our lives.
- **What or whom do you love more than God?**
- **Have you, or are you prepared to “give up everything” for Christ?**

## **Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study**

### **The Agents of the Apocalypse**

“The Two Witnesses”

*Revelation 11:1-14*

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