



# Sold out to Christ!

July 29, 2019

**LUKE 14: 25-27, 33 NIV - (25)** Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, **(26)** "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. **(27)** And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. **(33)** So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

What does Jesus mean in saying "Hate?" First, we must take this verse in the context of the chapter. Following the statement that we must "hate" our father and mother, Jesus relates a metaphor about a man who builds a house without first counting the cost (**Luke 14:28-30**). The man finds that he cannot follow through with what he set out to do. He leaves the house unfinished because he cannot pay what is required. Jesus' illustration helps explain His difficult statement about hating our mother and father—namely, we must count the cost of being a disciple. There is a cost, and that is the point of the passage.

The costliness of commitment to God's will is seen in the example of Jesus. He requires nothing of us that He Himself has not done. Christ lived with the humiliation and agony that often accompanies living according to the will of God. Both the Father and the Son counted the cost before proceeding with their plan for the salvation of humanity. In being sent into the world, Jesus knew ahead of time what it would take to accomplish the divine goal. He left His Father's house to build His church so that the gates of Hades could never prevail against it (**Matthew 16:18**).

Those words above are heart searching, soul-stirring words. Jesus said that unless you hate your father and mother and brothers and sisters and wife and husband and children, and your own life also - you cannot be a disciple of Jesus. Those are hard words. Those are very difficult words. Jesus is saying that He expects and deserves to be first in our lives. How could any Christian deny that He deserves first place. Jesus expects of us to be sold out to him completely and totally.

You and I must be sold out to Jesus. Jesus deserves every minute of every day and every penny of every dollar. He must have every ability and every skill that we possess. After all - everything that we have has come from God. His love must master us, control us, constrain us -- we must be sold out to Jesus.

Many Christians wonder why Jesus doesn't use them. Well let me tell you the reason many people are not used in God's service is that they are not sold out to Jesus. Jesus only uses sold out people. It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter who you know. It doesn't matter how little or how much you have. It doesn't matter how educated you are. If you want God to use you, you must be sold out to Jesus. Don't let other people's opinions about you stop you from selling out. Don't let the criticisms, the persecutions, the hypocrites and the haters stop you from selling out! When you sell out, there will be "No form of godliness" because the people will see the real thing. They will see Jesus. Stop envying others because you don't have that secular education that they may have. Besides, many don't have a spiritual diploma! They are harping on what man says.

You just sell out to Christ and watch how He will use you. Watch the impact in the kingdom. All because you have sold out! Yes, the enemy will send His forces (Your friends, your loved ones, your spouse, your neighbor, people in your own local church, your employer), you just put on the armor and keep it on. I know these are just words, but there is hope in the believer! The manipulator / controller will use things to distract you, but all you need is Christ! There is a cost, but through Christ we can do all things. It is He who will teach you endurance, it is He who will teach you structure and you reap the benefits (Kingdom benefits) for selling out to Him. Sell out to Him. Many will not understand you because they themselves are not sold out. They are acknowledging Him but holding on to their humanistic view. In the mean time, God needs some soldiers, will you say yes? Will you step up? Will you sell out?

My brothers and sisters, the world is coming to an end in warp speed. God is calling His disciples to do His work! Time out for religion, time out for complacency, we must worship Him in Spirit and truth!

**SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 14:8**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Gossip is Satan's radio frequency. Are you his D. J.?