

Red Letter Edition: Did Jesus Really Say That?
“Examined Priorities”

Introduction: Today we begin a brief review of some of the most difficult or hard sayings of Jesus

NEXT WEEK: An Exclusive Way

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 NKJV

FOLLOWING WEEK: An Essential Sacrifice

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Matthew 16:24-25 NKJV

TODAY: Examined Priorities

"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. Luke 14:26 NKJV

Setting the Context

- ✓ Has been teaching in the home of one of the leading Pharisees on the Sabbath (heals the man with dropsy)
- ✓ Taught them about the Sabbath

Then He answered them, saying, "Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" Luke 14:5 NKJV

- ✓ Taught also about humility and likened the Kingdom to a great wedding feast (common metaphor of Jesus)

Then a Change of Scenery

Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, Luke 14:25 NKJV

- ✓ A picture of both large crowds following and the journey taken by Jesus (In Luke the journey is toward Jerusalem/cross and in the crowds are always potential disciples)
- ✓ The journey toward the cross in Luke is always about the formation of disciples-followers of Jesus

NOTE: The journey began in Luke 9:51

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, Luke 9:51 NKJV

- ✓ The crowds that follow Jesus on the journey are “neutral persons” a pool from which he might find disciples
- ✓ But “the multitudes” are not synonymous with disciples-may like his teaching, be enamored by his miracles, but not have their fundamental character altered-these are not disciples
- ✓ There are several distinctive marks of authentic disciples and one is found in this “hard saying of Jesus.”

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. Luke 14:25-26 NKJV

HATING: Father, Mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters

- ✓ How can this be? (John 13:35)
- ✓ How is that reconciled?

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 NKJV

"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: Ephesians 6:2-3 NKJV

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. John 19:25-27 NKJV

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Hate-“miso”

- ✓ Malicious or unjustifiable feelings toward others

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15 NKJV

- ✓ A right feeling toward evil

For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. Romans 7:15-16 NKJV

- ✓ Relative preference for one thing over another demonstrated by an aversion from

And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. 31 And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. Genesis 29:30, 31KJV

NOTE: Greek Septuagint-“miso”

So hate = to love less

It is an issue of priorities

TRUTH: Priorities MUST be examined!

- ✓ Do we love anything or anyone more than we do Jesus?
- ✓ Is anything more important than following Him?

(ILL) Some cultures have to give up all; even family to follow Christ

We must EXAMINE OUR PRIORITIES!

Failure to examine our priorities may:

I. Distract our Kingdom Focus

NOTE: Luke discusses this issue of priorities often

Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." 61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:57-62 NKJV

- A. Rigorous demands of Jesus placed on His followers
- B. But it follows His own commitment

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, Luke 9:51 NKJV

(Would be mistreated, abandoned, beaten, hated, tempted, but His focus would not be lost).

- C. Jesus is asserting the nature of commitment required of those who would follow Him—most match the depth of His resolve to serve the purpose of the Father!
- D. Are we examining our priorities?
 - 1. Wealth
 - 2. Material things
 - 3. Politics
 - 4. Relationships

Failure to do so distracts from Kingdom focus

II. Destroys our Kingdom Influence

"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. Luke 14:26 NKJV

Later in same chapter:

"Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? 35 It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 14:34-35 NKJV

(ILL) Palestinian salt studied actually allows for a slow loss of salt from salt crystals-loses its taste

- A. Salt is good-but tasteless salt is of no value
- B. Those who journey with Jesus, but do not examine and correct their priorities lose Kingdom influence

- ✓ When we say we are followers of Jesus but our priorities don't-our influence is gone with a lost world

III. Disrupt our Kingdom Progress

NOTE: Cannot grow as a follower of Jesus with unexamined and corrupted priorities

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it — 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. Luke 14:28-33 NKJV

- A. Parable of tower-mockery-didn't finish

(ILL) Cardinal Hills house

- B. Parable of War-surrender-contend with
- C. Unless priorities are examined-cannot progress in the Kingdom

IV. Disqualify us from Kingdom Entrance

NOTE:

Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!"¹⁶ Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, ¹⁷ and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'¹⁸ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'¹⁹ And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'²⁰ Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'²¹ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'²² And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'²³ Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'" Luke 14:15-24 NKJV

- A. Because priorities were out of whack-not even let in to the Banquet
- B. Harsh word-must examine our priorities

Conclusion:

"Jesus of Nazareth always comes asking disciples to follow Him-not merely "accept Him," not merely "believe in Him," not merely "worship Him," but to follow Him: one either follows Christ, or one does not. There is no compartmentalization of the faith, no realm, no sphere, no business, no politic in which the Lordship of Christ will be excluded. We either make Him Lord of all Lords, or we deny Him as Lord of any." -Lee Camp, Mere Discipleship: Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World