



The Words of Jesus Series

Cost of Discipleship

Parables of Guests, Host, Lost Coin & Lost Sheep

Context: Luke 14 & 15, Matthew 9, 18, 22 & 23

Lesson 1 – Parables of Hospitality (Luke 14:7-24)

Lesson 2 – Discipleship Requirements (Luke 14:25-35)

Lesson 3 – Lost and Found (Luke 15:1-10)

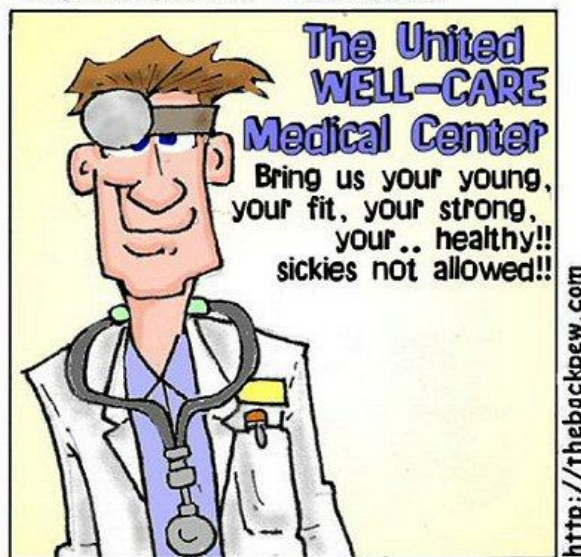
Jesus observes competition for the best seats, teaches on humility, being ready for the kingdom, the cost of discipleship, and the joy in heaven when sinners repent.

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Is my church a social club for others like me? .. or .. it is a refuge and shelter for the needy, the sick, and the hurting?
Matthew 9:10-13 and Luke 5:27-32

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Lesson 1 – Parables of Hospitality (Luke 14:7-24)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Luke 14:7 What observation preceded Jesus' speaking? _____

[1B] Luke 14:8-9 Which seat did Jesus say should be avoided? _____

[1C] Luke 14:10 Which seat did Jesus say should be chosen? _____

[1D] Luke 14:11 Who will be exalted? _____

[1E] Luke 14:12-14 When will acts of kindness be repaid? _____

[1F] Luke 14:15 Who did His audience say would be blessed? _____

[1G] Luke 14:16-17 A man giving a big dinner did what when it was ready? _____

[1H] Luke 14:19-20 What kind of excuses did the host receive from the guests? _____

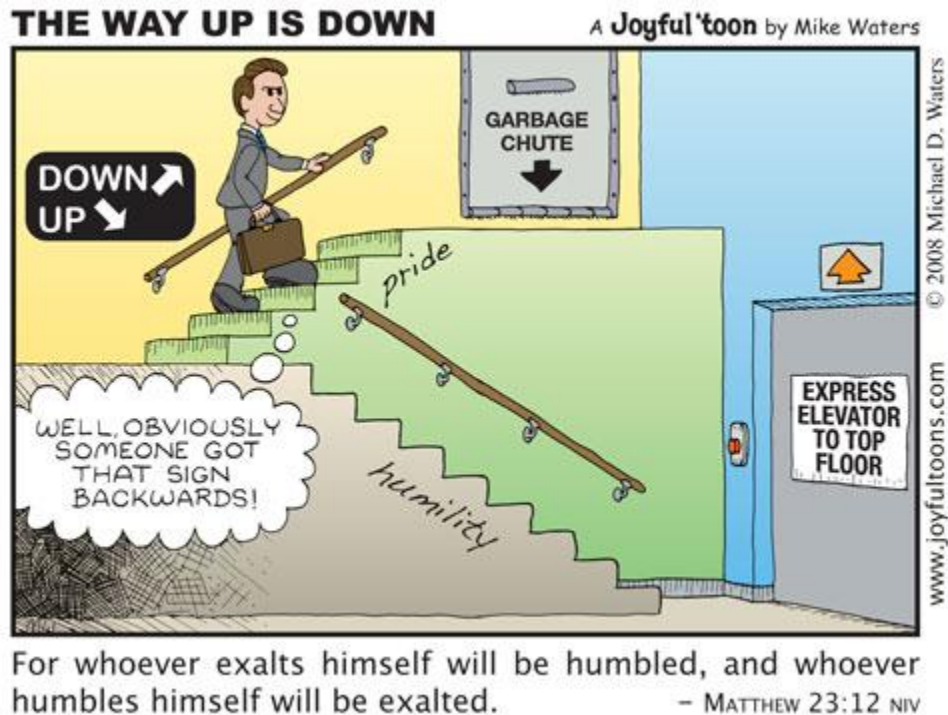
[1I] Luke 14:21 Where did the host send to find guests? _____

[1J] Luke 14:22-23 Where did the host send to find more guests? _____

[1K] Luke 14:24 Who had become unwelcome at the feast? _____

[1L] How possessive are you of your "regular" seat in the worship service? How does your attitude fit in with Jesus' instructions in Luke 14:7-11?

Think & Pray _____



Lesson 1 – Parables of Hospitality (Luke 14:7-24)

- [1A] Luke 14:7 What observation preceded Jesus' speaking? Seeing how they picked seats
[1B] Luke 14:8-9 Which seat did Jesus say should be avoided? Place of honor
[1C] Luke 14:10 Which seat did Jesus say should be chosen? Last place
[1D] Luke 14:11 Who will be exalted? He who humbles himself
[1E] Luke 14:12-14 When will acts of kindness be repaid? At the resurrection of the righteous
[1F] Luke 14:15 Who did His audience say would be blessed?

Those who will eat bread in the kingdom of God.

- [1G] Luke 14:16-17 A man giving a big dinner did what when it was ready? Notified the guests to come
[1H] Luke 14:19-20 What kind of excuses did the host receive from the guests? I'm looking at some property, I'm trying out some oxen, and I am recently married. In case you don't know much about their culture, these are poor excuses.
[1I] Luke 14:21 Where did the host send to find guests? The city for the poor, crippled and blind
[1J] Luke 14:22-23 Where did the host send to find more guests? The highways and hedgerows
[1K] Luke 14:24 Who had become unwelcome at the feast? Those invited who had the poor excuses.

[1L] I saw a lady ask a visitor in our worship service to move because he had sat in her normal spot. He never came back. As a matter of fact, that was in a church I *used* to go to. Have you ever been involved in either end of such an interaction? Explain.

For Further Thought:

- (1h) Compare Luke 14:7-14 with Matthew 23:1-11. What is the same? What is different?
(1i) Compare Luke 14:11 with 2 Samuel 22:28; Proverbs 29:23, Matthew 23:12, Luke 1:52, Luke 18:14; and James 4:10. What did you learn?
(1j) Compare Luke 14:14 with John 5:29. What is the same? What is different?
(1k) What does the Parable in Luke 14:15-24 mean? How can we apply that to our everyday life?
(1l) Compare Luke 14:15-24 with Matthew 22:2-14. What is the same? What is different?
(1m) How often do you invite Christians to your house for fellowship?
(1n) Do you ever intentionally humble yourself? How or why not?
(1o) Do you ever perform "random acts of kindness?" What or why not?

Lesson 2 – Discipleship Requirements (Luke 14:25-35)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] Luke 14:25 How many people were walking with Jesus? _____

[2B] Luke 14:26 What did Jesus say was required to be His disciple? _____

[2C] Luke 14:27 What did Jesus say was required to be His disciple? _____

[2D] Luke 14:28 What do people do before erecting a building? _____

[2E] Luke 14:29-30 What might happen if you don't calculate the cost? _____

[2F] Luke 14:31 What does a military leader do before a battle? _____

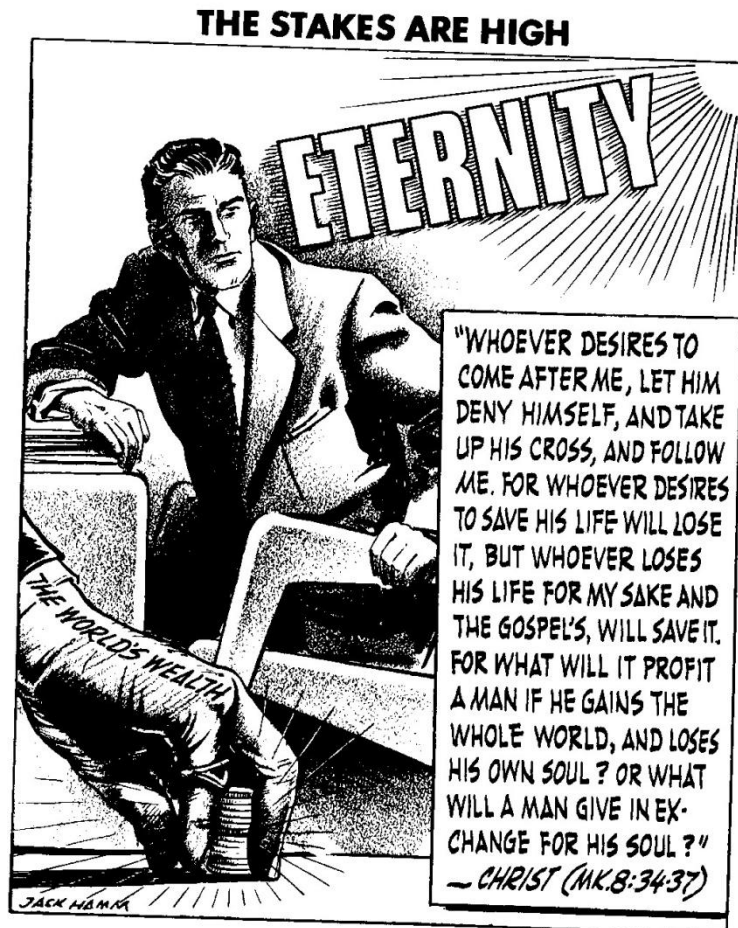
[2G] Luke 14:32 What does the leader do if he thinks he cannot win? _____

[2H] Luke 14:33 What did Jesus say was required to be His disciple? _____

[2I] Luke 14:34-35 What happens to useless salt? _____

[2J] Jesus said you must give up your relationships (Luke 14:26), your possessions (Luke 14:33) and your life (Luke 14:27) to be His disciple. Have you?

Think & Pray _____



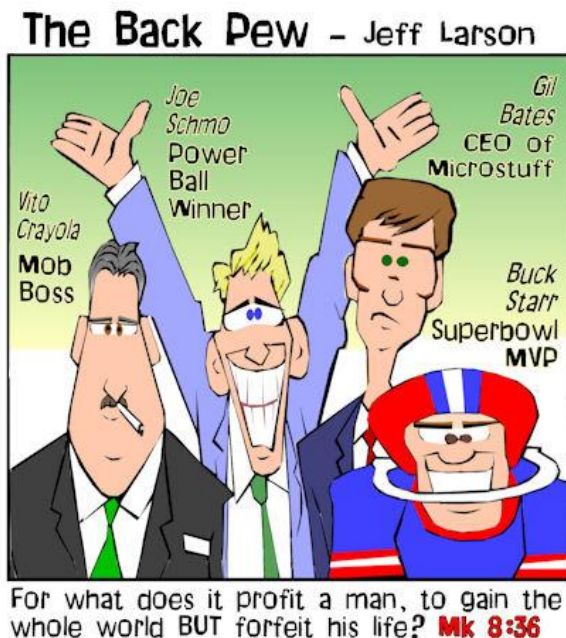
Lesson 2 – Discipleship Requirements (Luke 14:25-35)

- [2A] Luke 14:25 How many people were walking with Jesus? Large crowds
- [2B] Luke 14:26 What did Jesus say was required to be His disciple? Hating your family members
- [2C] Luke 14:27 What did Jesus say was required to be His disciple? Carrying your cross to your death
- [2D] Luke 14:28 What do people do before erecting a building? Calculate the cost
- [2E] Luke 14:29-30 What might happen if you don't calculate the cost? Failure and ridicule
- [2F] Luke 14:31 What does a military leader do before a battle? Consider if he can win or not
- [2G] Luke 14:32 What does the leader do if he thinks he cannot win? Ask for peace terms
- [2H] Luke 14:33 What did Jesus say was required to be His disciple? Give up your possessions
- [2I] Luke 14:34-35 What happens to useless salt? It is thrown out It can't even be used as fertilizer

[2J] I have lost some relationships, even family relationships, and given up some possessions because of my answer to the call of Christ. I find that I like to believe I am willing to give it all up if needed, but hope I will not be tested in regard to this. I am trusting His grace to make me able to do whatever is necessary to follow Him.

For Further Thought:

- (2k) Compare Luke 14:26-27 with Matthew 10:37-38, Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34 and Galatians 5:24. Learn anything?
- (2l) Is Proverbs 20:18 teaching the same lesson as Luke 14:31? Why?
- (2m) Compare Luke 14:33 with Philippians 3:7 and Hebrews 11:26. What is the same? What is different?
- (2n) What does Luke 14:34-35 mean? (See also Matthew 5:13 and Mark 9:50)
- (2o) Compare how much you discipleship costs you with how much your salvation cost God. Learn anything? (John 3:16)
- (2p) Does First John 2:15-17 add anything to our understanding of the cost of discipleship?
- (2q) What has been the most difficult thing for you to give up to follow Jesus Christ?



Lesson 3 – Lost and Found (Luke 15:1-10)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] Luke 15:1 Who was coming to listen to Jesus? _____

[3B] Luke 15:2 Who objected to Jesus' audience? _____

[3C] Luke 15:3-4 What makes a man leave his flock and go searching? _____

[3D] Luke 15:5 What did the man do when he found the lost sheep? _____

[3E] Luke 15:6 What did the man do when he returned home? _____

[3F] Luke 15:7 When someone repents of his sin, where is there a celebration? _____

[3G] Luke 15:8 What do people search for when it is lost? _____

[3H] Luke 15:9 What did the lady do when she found her lost money? _____

[3I] Luke 15:10 Who has joy when one sinner repents? _____

[3J] Matthew 18:10-14 What is God's will? _____

[3K] Matthew 9:9-13 What does God desire more than sacrifice? _____

[3L] There are lost people all around us. Is enough being done about it? What else do you think could be done to help them find the Lord?

Think & Pray _____

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



We're poor little Lambs who have lost our way, Bah Bah Bah, We're lost little sheep who have gone astray, Bah Bah Bah **Luke 15:1-7** (Wiffenpoof translation)

Lesson 3 – Lost and Found (Luke 15:1-10)

- [3A] Luke 15:1 Who was coming to listen to Jesus? Tax collectors and sinners
 [3B] Luke 15:2 Who objected to Jesus' audience? Pharisees and scribes
 [3C] Luke 15:3-4 What makes a man leave his flock and go searching? One lost sheep
 [3D] Luke 15:5 What did the man do when he found the lost sheep? Carried it rejoicing
 [3E] Luke 15:6 What did the man do when he returned home? He celebrated finding the lost sheep
 [3F] Luke 15:7 When someone repents of his sin, where is there a celebration? In Heaven
 [3G] Luke 15:8 What do people search for when it is lost? Money The coin was about a day's wages
 [3H] Luke 15:9 What did the lady do when she found her lost money? Celebrated
 [3I] Luke 15:10 Who has joy when one sinner repents? The angels in the presence of God
 [3J] Matthew 18:10-14 What is God's will? That none of the little ones perish Mt 18:14
 [3K] Matthew 9:9-13 What does God desire more than sacrifice? Compassion

[3L] Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Not everyone is called as an evangelist Eph 4:11-12, but all are called to evangelize (2 Tim 4:5).

Ephesians 4:11-12 "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ."

2 Timothy 4:5 "But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

For Further Thought:

- (3m) What is the longest you ever remember spending looking for something that was lost? If you found it, how did you feel? If you didn't find it, how disappointed were you?
- (3n) How long were you lost before you were saved? How do you think your Christian friends and relatives felt during that time? Have you ever talked to them about it?
- (3o) Are you an evangelist by calling or by duty? If you are not, how do you support the work of the body of Christ to seek the lost and lead them to Jesus Christ?
- (3p) When you were saved what do you speculate were the words to the song the angels sang?
 (Luke 15:7)
- (3q) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?
- (3r) If someone asked you what this course was about, what would you tell them?
- (3s) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?