



Session #4: IF always prefaces discipleship

Fallow Ground Project

October 19, 2016

Prayer:

What is God saying to me?

The Word:

²⁵ Now great multitudes accompanied him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a 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 encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends an embassy and asks terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. ¹

Luke 14:25-33

- What words jump off the page at you? Why?
- What does this passage have to teach us?
- What implications does it have for the way in which we live?
- What questions does this raise for you?
- What does it tell us about the heart of God? The heart of humans?
- What does it mean to you personally?

¹ *The Revised Standard Version*, Lk 14:25–33 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1971).

Teaching Points:

- *If you were going to compare following Jesus to an extreme sport --either mountain climbing, downhill skiing, whitewater rafting -- which would it be? Why?*
- When you saw we were talking about this passage and we read it, what were some of your reactions to the '**extremeness**' of Jesus?
- Let's talk about the passage a bit
- Luke 14:26 -- If anyone does not hate his family and their own life, they cannot be my disciple
 - 1st love and 2nd loves
 - This is about loving God above others. This is not a license to hate they people around you and yourself
 - But you cannot be my disciple if you do not love Me the most in your life -- can we agree with that statement?
- Luke 14:27 - If you do not bear your cross and follow Jesus, you cannot be his disciple
 - Your own -- yes it can be your own, personal, predestined set of trials and sufferings - this is how we usually use it -- yet I think it is more about an ownership thing - it is mine to pick up...
 - A cross is an instrument of death
 - Are you not willing to come and die, if not, you cannot be his disciple
 - *Jesus said—"If any man will be My disciple, let him deny himself" i.e., his right to himself, and a man has to realize Who Jesus Christ is before he will do it. Beware of refusing to go to the funeral of your own independence.² (If you do not have a copy of My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers it is well worth the purchase)*
- Luke 14:28-33 -- count the costs and....
 - Jesus uses a few illustrations -- building a tower and going to war to show that we must first count the costs before undertaking a large venture
 - Discipleship to Jesus is a large venture
 - In the end, when the costs are counted with discipleship, the tally is very high - if you do not renounce everything you cannot be my disciple

² Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest : Selections for the Year*, NIV edition. (Westwood, NJ: Barbour and Co., 1993).

- Why does Jesus even go down the road of counting costs, if it is going to cost you everything?
- It is like marriage -- it is not to be entered into lightly.
- It costs us everything -
- To review - discipleship comes with some IF's -- this is from Jesus' point of view
 - If you do not hate others and yourself (or Love Jesus more than others), then you cannot be my disciple
 - If you do not take up your cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple
 - If you do not renounce everything, you cannot be my disciple
 - *That is why when Our Lord talked about discipleship, He prefaced it with an IF —you do not need to unless you like. "If any man will be My disciple, let him deny himself"; let him give up his right to himself to Me³*
 - That is some heavy stuff on the table -- what will we do with it?
 - **This discipleship piece is core to the everything else in life**

The 5 questions of life...(that will be hoping to answer in full in this Fallow Ground Process)

1. *Do I trust that God has the best at heart for me and those whom I love?*
2. *What/who is my mission?*
3. *Who is my community?*
4. *What type of person should I become?*
5. *Am I all in?*

³ Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest : Selections for the Year*, NIV edition. (Westwood, NJ: Barbour and Co., 1993).

How is it with your heart?

Time for group reflection (lean into Luke 13-24 and The Barbarian Way)

Tell me how this reality of discipleship aligns with what you have read in Luke and in *The Barbarian Way*?

- Give me some reactions to *The Barbarian Way*?
- What themes does God seem to be pushing on in your own heart as you read?
- What are some of your favorite parts of the reading this time? How is it speaking to you?
- Anything else you would like to talk about?

How is it with your mission?

Time for Personal response:

Housekeeping business:

- I need everyone's email address

- Next meeting: November 2, 2016

- For next time:

- Read Acts 1-7

- Read Last two chapters of Barbarian Way

Proposed Covenant for the Fallow Ground Project:

I _____ covenant before God and those whom are in my tribe that I will 'break up' the fallow ground of my life and allow the things of God to be planted and nurtured in my life by...

- Reading the material and preparing for each meeting to the best of my ability
- Making time on my schedule for this meeting to be an "A" priority - not, "I will go if nothing else comes up" type of meeting. If I do have to miss a session, I will get together with another member of group before the next meeting to catch up and pray
- Asking honest, heart level questions when we gather together
- Speaking up when a thought, an idea, or question comes to your mind and heart
- Refusing God nothing as He transforms me and those around me.
- Sharing what God does in me with others in the forms that suits my gifting and calling when this group wraps up (Disciples make disciples)
- Personal things you want to covenant with God and us about in the remaining sessions we have together.... (Note: if you want to have you give an account for something within the group, then please write it down -- pray on this.)
 - ???
 - ???
 - ???

My name: _____ Date _____

Tribe leader's name _____ Date _____

