

JESUS RAISES THE BAR...ON TRUE RELIGION
LUKE 14:25-35

MAIN IDEA: True religion loves God first, above all else, even ourselves. It requires self-denial. It is not cheap nor is it easy, there is a high cost to be considered. Considering the alternative, it is worth everything you own.

BACKGROUND: Luke describes a dinner in which Jesus teaches four lessons

1. Man with dropsy: True religion is doing _____ and showing mercy.
2. Guests scrambling for best seats: True religion is about _____ before God and others.
3. The poor, crippled and lame: True religion is about faith and doing good to those who cannot _____ you knowing there is a _____ in the life to come.
4. Jesus uses the story of a dinner to teach that the kingdom of God will include the crippled, the poor and the lame...as well as the _____.

SETTING: After seeing His miracles and hearing His words of wisdom a huge crowd of people were following Him. At this point, He turns to the crowd as says, if you really want to follow Me...it's not going to be easy, there will be a cost!

Read Luke 14:25-35 – What is the cost? Jesus said...

- I. You must put Me _____!
 - A. How are we commanded to treat our parents? Ex. 20:12; Mt. 15:4-6
 - B. How is a husband commanded to treat his wife? Eph. 5:25 & 33
 - C. Does it matter how a husband treats his wife? 1 Peter 3:7
 - D. How is a father commanded to care for his family? 1 Timothy 5:8
 - E. How are we commanded to treat others? John 15:12; Luke 6:27

Then why does Jesus use the word hate? The word “hate” means to love _____. It's a hyperbole used to show comparison. (Rom. 9:12-13) Is this a contradiction?

Scripture clearly teaches that we are to love one another, especially the household of faith. We are to honor our mothers and fathers, it is the first commandment given with

promise. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. A father is to love and provide for his family. Our love for God is measured by our love for one another.

This is the great commandment. We are to love God with entire being and love our neighbors as ourselves. A right love for others begins with loving God _____. If there is ever a conflict...we choose God! (Eli...)

II. You must _____ yourself!

- A. Christ's example of humility. Phil. 2:3-5;
- B. Christ's example of putting God first. Matthew 26:39
- C. Jesus literally carries His own _____. John 19:17

III. It will be _____!

- A. According to tradition _____ the disciples except for John were martyred.
- B. Example of Paul. 2 Corinthians 11:23-28
- C. Those who lived by faith and counted it worthy! Hebrews 11:32-39

IV. But it is worth _____ you have! Hebrews 12:1-3

Paraphrase Hebrews 12:1-3 or write a short note of encouragement to someone who is going through a hard time. How would you paraphrase the above and encourage them?

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 12:1b-2 "Let us run with endurance, the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set

before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.

LORD, help us to remember that You are not asking us to do anything that You haven't done Yourself! Help us to live every day with eternity in mind. When we need help, help us to come to You, knowing that You have walked this road before us.