

May 25, 2014
"A Call to Christian Discipleship"
Luke 14:25-35

"And they crucified him.... And sitting down they watched him there"
(Matthew 27:35–36). "Like those Roman soldiers, many of us
merely lapse into inaction. But the cross of Christ is infinitely
more than a showcase, an exhibit to arouse curiosity. It is a
clarion call to action, commitment, and discipleship."

G.C. Jones

The Call of Discipleship is:

I. A call to HATRED –

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 14:26 NKJ)

*If we do not put this verse in the context of the entirety of Jesus'
teaching, we might misunderstand it –*

1. Hatred must be understood in the context of commanded LOVE:

A. Christ commands us to love our enemies –

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and
hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies (Matthew 5:43-
44 NKJ)

*B. Christ calls us to honor our father and mother and love our
neighbor ...*

¹⁹ "Honor your father and your mother," and, "You shall love your
neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 19:19 NKJ)

*C. He calls us to love one another, as He has loved us and this He
specifically relates to discipleship –*

³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I
have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all will know
that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-
35 NKJ)

2. *In this LOVE-context, hating father, mother, children, brothers,
sisters and our own lives has to be understood as in
COMPARISON to our LOVE for Christ and God ...*

²⁷ So he answered and said, "You shall love the LORD your God
with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and
with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27
NKJ)

*All your heart, soul and strength is a GREATER LOVE, and Christ
demands a GREAT LOVE to Himself in comparison which our
other loves should be considered "hatred" in comparison.*

II. A call to the CROSS –

²⁷ "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be
My disciple. (Luke 14:27 NKJ)

How dreadful was the cross, yet we are to follow Christ in taking IT!

"Across the will of Nature Leads on the path of God;

Not where the flesh delighteth The feet of Jesus trod.

O bliss to leave behind us The fetters of the slave,

To leave ourselves behind us, The graveclothes and the grave.

We follow in His footsteps; What if our feet be torn?

Where He has marked the pathway All hail the briar and the thorn!

Scarce seen, scarce be heard, unreckoned, Despised, defamed, unknown

Or heard but by our singing, On, children, ever on!" — Gerhard

Tersteegan

1. *It is a call to wage war against sin and SELF*

2. *It is a call to follow Christ's path, even bearing with (though not
bearing) the sins of others*

3. *It is a call to a mindset of humility, selflessness and godly
obedience as MODELLED by Christ –*

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in
the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but
made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and
coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a
man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death,
even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:5-8 NKJ)

III. A call to COUNT the COST (forsaking all) ...

**"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 O 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."³⁴ "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 14:28-33 NKJ)

1. *It is a call that COSTS EVERYTHING* –
³³ "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

2. *It is a call that is beyond us* –

A. *Can we finish building the tower?*

B. *Can we compete ten thousand vs. twenty thousand?*

3. *Peter thought he was ready* –

A. *He left all* –

²⁷ Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" (Matthew 19:27 NKJ)

B. *He COUNTED himself strong* –

³³ Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."³⁵ Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples. (Matthew 26:33-35 NKJ)

C. *He FAILED miserably* –

⁶⁶ Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came.⁶⁷ And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth."⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed.⁶⁹ And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is *one* of them."⁷⁰ But he denied it again. And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are *one* of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows *it*."⁷¹ Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!"⁷² A second time *the* rooster crowed. Then Peter called to mind the word that Jesus

had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." And when he thought about it, he wept. (Mark 14:66-72 NKJ)

4. *A right accounting of what we HAVE will lead to hungering and thirsting for righteousness* –

"Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.⁵ Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.⁶ Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:3-6 NKJ)

5. *A KNOWLEDGE of what we LACK will lead to an asking, seeking and knocking in prayer for God's Spirit* –

⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."¹⁰ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."¹¹ "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he* asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?"¹² "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?"¹³ "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:9-13 NKJ)

IV. *A call to keep a Holy SALTINESS and TO HEAR* –

³⁴ "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 NKJ)

From prayer that asks that I may be, sheltered from winds that beat on Thee. From fearing when I should aspire, from faltering when I should climb higher. From silken self, O Captain, free Thy soldier who would follow Thee.

From subtle love of softening things, from easy choices, weakenings, Not thus are spirits fortified, Not this way went the Crucified, From all that dims Thy Calvary, O Lamb of God, deliver me.

Give me the love that leads the way, the faith that nothing can dismay, The hope no disappointments tire, The passion that will burn like fire, Let me not sink to be a clod: Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

Amy Carmichael