

Sunday, April 21, 2024 | The Road to Redemption

Week 21 | Luke 14:25-35 | "Disqualified Disciples"

Last week, a Pharisee invited Jesus to a dinner party. And this banquet, he gave those in attendance some food for thought: **piety without mercy is cruelty, the humbled will be brought up while the prideful will be brought low, the best kind of hospitality is given without reciprocity, and, lastly, man cannot save himself, but he can damn himself.** Needless to say, the Pharisees didn't like the things Jesus said. And so, it should be no surprise that the religious will never again invite the Lord to dinner.

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Anytime you apply for a job, you'll need to meet certain *qualifications*. For instance, if you want to be a lawyer, you'd better know how to read. If you're going to work in construction, you'd better know how to wield a hammer. Or, if you want a career in the food industry, you'd better know how to cook.

But any job worth having will not only have some qualifications but also some *disqualifications*. For instance, lawyers who spend more time in prison than out probably won't be practicing law for long. A builder who ignores building codes will likely find themselves unemployed. And a chef who doesn't make cleanliness a priority ought to be washing dirty dishes rather than preparing food.

Likewise, to be a disciple of Jesus, there are some qualifications, such as faith, repentance, humility, perseverance, etc. But there are also some disqualifications. Yes, make no mistake, there are things that will make would-be disciples *unworthy* to call themselves Christians.

Today, the Lord will show us several things that disqualify a disciple. Sooner or later, all believers will have to grapple with these things. Jesus does not want a bunch of naïve followers. He wants disciples who fully understand what they're getting into if they follow him.

According to Jesus, you cannot be a disciple if...

- i. A **good** thing—i.e., family, self, etc.—has displaced the **best** thing—i.e., Jesus Christ.

**READ:** Luke 14:25-26 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "If anyone 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**."

ii. Our **dignity** has displaced our **duty** to Christ.

**READ:** Luke 14:27 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup> Whoever does not bear his own **cross** and come after me **cannot be my disciple**.

iii. **Enthusiasm** has displaced **pragmatism**.

**READ:** Luke 14:28-33 (ESV)

<sup>28</sup> 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? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not **sit down first and deliberate** whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has **cannot be my disciple**.

**So, what's the takeaway?**

A disciple is distinguished by **wholesale devotion** to Christ, or they've **disqualified** themselves.

**READ:** Luke 14:34-35 (ESV)

<sup>34</sup> "Salt is **good**, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup> It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. **It is thrown away**. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

In most contexts, being salty means being bitter or irritated. However, in the context of discipleship, it means being useful.

## **Video Description:**

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SPEAKER: Ben Hyrne, Pastor

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**Pastor's manuscript can be found here:**

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### **Grace Pointe Baptist Church**

12029 Eastern Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21220

Contact: [info@GracePointeLife.com](mailto:info@GracePointeLife.com)

Website: <https://www.gracepointelife.com>

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