



Thursday, April 11, 2024

LESSON 1: COUNTING THE COST

Read For This Week's Book Study

Leviticus 13, Mark 10: 17-25, Luke 17: 11-19, John 6: 25-40, John 6: 59-71

Memory Scripture: “A false balance abomination to Yahweh, but a just weight his delight.” – Proverbs 11: 1

Key Scripture: And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, “If any come to me, and **mis-eh’-o** not his father and mother and wife and children and brethren and sisters yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation and is not able to finish, all that behold begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.” –Luke 14: 25-33 (KJV)

Word Study: The Greek word *misó*, means “hatred”, “to detest”, or to “loathe” someone to the point of persecution, but the way Yeshua is using this word means to “love less”. He never instructed us to literally or metaphorically hate or bring harm our family or ourselves, as that would go against his doctrine and the theme of the New Testament. This term is mistranslated and misrepresented, so when he says to hate your family, your life and love him more, people become uncomfortable and feel Christ is being a hypocrite when he insists to love our enemies and to treat them with kindness. Christ isn’t a hypocrite, the wording was simply mistranslated.

Key Points

- Law Of Lepers
- Christ Heals The Ten Lepers
- Christ Spoke Of Hardship & Then Many Disciples Left Him
- Christ Called Twelve, But One Was A Devil
- Christ Asked The Rich Man To Sacrifice & Become Poor

Anytime you get in a relationship with someone, it will cost you something. It’s inevitable. Furthermore, when you get into a relationship with another person, you will have to sacrifice. Let’s look at a few examples in scripture where choice and action matter and someone had to sacrifice in the relationship. Yeshua told his disciples that they must *misó*, everything and everyone and pick up their cross and follow him or they are not worthy of being his. Then he used allegories to explain to his disciples how foolish it is to start something without being prepared, such as the builder who needed to build, but was unable to finish, or how the king who prepares to go out to meet another king in battle must sit down and sincerely think about taking a small number of soldiers when his enemy has double the manpower. It looks silly to start something half way and not finish it, right? That’s the whole point of what Yeshua is saying here. Before a person goes off

to do something, he/she should always sit down and carefully think about what it is they're about to do, what it means to do what they're about to and what it will cost them before committing to the situation.

For Christians, being in a relationship with Yeshua is always going to cost us something at some point in our walk, whether it small or big, we will find ourselves in situations that will expose us for the type of follower we are. In the Old Testament, there was a strict law for the sick lepers. They different types of unclean stages of lepers, but in the end, no matter what type it was, lepers were cast away and cut off from the community and had to announce that they were unclean so people knew to stay away from them. To be with us, it cost Yeshua something. It cost him a lot of things. It cost him his cleanliness, his reputation and ultimately, his life. All of which he chose to lay down, no one took his life, he forfeited it willingly, just like he willingly went to visit the ten lepers on the outskirts of town. Yeshua desires relationship with all of us, but many people become Christians and follow him for the wrong reasons.

After healing the ten lepers, which was unlawful for him to do since the lepers were unclean, only one returned to him to give praise and worship to Yahweh. Yeshua noted this about the nine who didn't return to him. They didn't really want to be with him, they just wanted a quick fix and after that, they were done with him. Right here, you see a defined example of Yeshua acting for the ten lepers, choosing to do something unlawful for he was clean and healthy, but went outside the city to the unclean and diseased and gave them mercy. This should have shown the ten lepers he wasn't just their healer, but their savior, but only one came back to honor him.

It's really petty on our part to declare to the entire world that we're followers of Christ, but come to his table unprepared or come to his table just to eat what's there and then leave. A prime example of this is the 5000. After feeding the 5000, Yeshua had several people follow him and he told those people what it would cost them, what it meant to be holy and how to please the Father. Yeshua had a such a big crowd that day, but after they heard what it would cost them to be with him, a large number fell away. They just wanted to be fed, they wanted a easy way of living. It wasn't ideal for them, so they left and Yeshua turned to the twelve who remained with him and asked them if they would depart also, to which Peter said no, for they had nowhere else to go. Peter declared that he believed Yeshua was the Son of Yahweh. From here, Yeshua states an interesting

truth. Twelve he called, yet one of the disciples was a devil. Great. So now we're dealing with a poser, a fake Christian who clearly wasn't interested in counting the cost and thinking about what it means to have a sincere relationship with him. Judas didn't seem to care about those consequences and later on in his walk with the Lord, we see what type of "Christian" Judas really was.

Saying you believe Hashem and saying you believe *in* Hashem and that you will be faithful to them no matter what and will give up everything to be with them, are two different beliefs. One belief doesn't cost you anything, whereas the other will cost you your reputation, your family or friends, wealth and in some cases, your life. The young rich man who approached Yeshua wanted to be saved, he had kept the law since his youth and obeyed the Law Of Moshe (Moses), yet he lacked one thing. That one thing he lacked is what Yeshua targeted, knowing it would be difficult for him, for the young rich man had many assets and was very wealthy. He wanted to follow Yeshua and be saved so badly, but to do that would cost him everything. Sadly, he walked away sore and depressed because he couldn't find it in himself to sell everything he owned and give it to the poor.

To serve Hashem, is to act, to execute a choice. Our responsibility is to decide for ourselves, if being in a relationship with Yahweh, Ruwah and Yeshua, is worth it *before* we decide to get saved. We must be sincere and unwavering in that choice because Revelation makes it clear we cannot be lukewarm and will be vomited out of their mouth and cast into Hell. If you claim you are a Christian and in a relationship with the Lord, but your relationship hasn't cost you anything or you haven't known hardship, ridicule, rejection or loss of something, you need to self-analyze yourself and see if you're truly in the relationship for the right reasons and understand what it means to really be a Christian. Yeshua made it clear we must love him more and put everything and everyone else last. If you think that comes off as selfish on his part, please remember that he left his purity and holy dwelling place to save us when he didn't have to.

Yeshua was humiliated by corrupted people and devils, beaten, spit upon, had his beard pulled out, nailed to cross and died a sinner's death, just so you and I could have a genuine relationship with Hashem. If he wanted to put himself first and only see himself in the relationship, then that would be selfish of him, but Yeshua put you first and decided you were worth loving, redeeming

and saving. To have relationship with us, it truly cost Hashem everything, but they were more than willing to think about the consequences of their choice before sending Yeshua came down here.

Based on this week's topic, self-reflect on what it means to count the cost and see if you are meeting the standard or falling short of it. How do you think this will affect your confession of faith and how others see you?

Answer: Type your response here.