
“Warning The Shallow!”

1. **Intro:**
   1.1. I will Pray for Veterans later in message.
   1.2. **The Scene:** Jesus left the house of the Pharisee/ruler(1); He leaves & walks away from the house(25a); then turns around to the crowd that’s following & challenges them w/some of the most solemn & searching words that ever fell from His lips.25b
   
   1.2.1. Understand the make up of this group: some hanging upon his every word; others interested in Him; others attracted by Him; some loved the association with his popularity; some enjoyed the miracles; some the occasional free lunch; they all felt they wanted to be with Him in some way.
   1.2.2. Jesus battles a thoughtless, hasty profession of faith.
   1.2.3. **Q:** What would you say if Jesus spun around this morning, pointed at you, & asked you, in front of everyone, “Why are you following Me?” - What would you say? [Oh, & you had to tell the truth!]
   1.2.4. The one who follows me is not on the way to worldly Power & Glory!

2. **WARNING THE SHALLOW! (25-35)**

2.1. **CANDIDATES FOR DISCIPLESHIP!** (25-27)
2.2. Here are the terms of discipleship!

2.3. (26) Comes – Strikingly different from the invitation to “come” in vs.17.
   2.3.1. This is a keynote passage on discipleship as opposed to thoughtless or hasty profession!

2.4. Note the thrice-repeated phrase: vss.26,27,33 – “cannot be My disciple”.
   2.4.1. You cannot be My disciple if there is no…

2.5. [1] **SURRENDER TO CHRIST!** (26) [Christ 1st in our Heart]
2.6. Christ 1st! - He claims the highest place in every human breast!

2.7. Christ 1st – APU gym **GOD FIRST**(motto) “it is the foremost thought of our every activity, the principal lesson of every class, & the utmost desire of every soul.”

2.8. Family Ties!
   2.8.1. No interest, no love, not even family loyalties, nor my own life can be placed before him.
   2.8.2. St. Jerome said it this way, “If Christ should bid me go this way, & my mother did hang about my neck to draw me another; & my father were in my way, bowing at my knees with tears entreating me not to go; & my children plucking at my skirts should seek to pull me the other way, I must unclasp my mother, I must push to the very ground my father, & put aside my children, for I must follow Christ!”

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1 Spurgeon At His Best; #6.415.
2.9. The stress in Matthews account (10:37) is on the **priority of love**. [Hate = to love less]

2.9.1. “Anyone who **loves** his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who **loves** his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.”

2.9.2. Nothing, not love for father or mother or even one’s own life, is to take precedence over loyalty to God and His Messiah.

2.10. When there is a **conflict** between the **highest earthly love & the call of Christ**, then there is only 1 thing to be done, & that is to **trample across our own hearts, & go after Him, w/o any compromise & any questions!** (Morgan)

2.11. **Own Life!**

2.12. The key to unlock this warning is, of course, the phrase, “**and his own life also.**”

2.12.1. Because, is there anything a man loves more than his own **life**?

2.12.1.1. Satan said, “all that a man has he will give for his **life**!”

2.12.1.2. Jesus asked, “what shall a man give in exchange for his **life**?”

2.12.2. The theme of these verses then is not “alienation from one’s family”, but the **cost of discipleship**.

2.13. In the 60’s everyone was trying to “Find Themselves” (people didn't like what they found) In the 70’s it was “Improve Yourself” (Everyone got a gym membership, that didn't work) In the 80’s it was “Serve Yourself” (we grew more/more materialistic, but that wasn't fulfilling) In the 90’s it was “Love Yourself” (& we might be on this one awhile) In the **New mill.** maybe its “Protect Yourself”? (i.e. Terror Threat)

2.13.1. But in every age it should be **Die to Self**!

2.14. Maybe the best way we can understand vs.26 is if we pause & hear the **footsteps**, or the **march**, of our countries young men & women going off to war:

2.14.1. Didn’t they love father? Mother? Didn’t they love their spouses? Their brother or sisters? Didn’t they love life???

2.14.2. OF COURSE THEY DID! But an hour struck when something **higher** than the earthly calls they loved the best, appealed to them; & they went in loyalty to their **countries call**.

2.14.3. And this **VETERANS DAY** Weekend, we honor especially those soldiers who **didn’t** march home! (KIA “Killed in Action”)

2.14.3.1. **American Revolutionary War** (4,435); **WWI** (53,402); **WWII** (291,557); **Korean War** (33,741); **Vietnam War** (47,424); **Afghanistan** (Operation Enduring Freedom) (189); **Persian Gulf War** (Operation Desert Storm) (147); **Iraq War/Invasion & Occupation** (2003-Present) (2,284).

2.14.3.2. Pray for Veterans – Those who **have** served, or are presently serving in our Armed Forces.
2.14.4. That is just what Jesus wants! - That is what he demands!
2.14.4.1. Those that will march in loyalty to His call, that supersedes any other earthly call!
2.14.4.2. He calls for much; He calls for everything; He calls for the march that may have no return, & can have no compromise!

2.15. Garibaldi, the great Italian Patriot [Led 1,000 volunteers in the capture of Sicily & Naples (1860)] appealed for recruits in these terms, “I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor provisions; I offer hunger, thirst, forced marches, battles & death. Let him who loves his country in his heart, & not w/his lips only, follow me.”

2.15.1. Jesus didn’t come to make life easy but to make men great!

2.16. [2] SUFFERING FOR CHRIST! (27) [Christ 1st in our Life]
2.17. Ready to be, or do, or suffer whatever may be God’s will for us.
2.17.1. This interprets the above verses. The Cross demands this loyalty!
2.17.2. Because He goes that way, His disciples must go that way also!
2.17.3. Today we commemorate the Persecuted Church around the world.
2.17.3.1. Read about Calvary Chapel Pastor in Lanka.

2.18. The picture is of the condemned criminal carrying his cross through the jeering crowds to execution. (Stibbs)

2.19. When the Roman Empire crucified a criminal or captive, the victim was often forced to carry his cross part of the way to the crucifixion site.
2.19.1. Carrying his cross through the heart of the city was the admission that Rome was right and you were wrong.
2.19.2. So when Jesus enjoined His followers to carry their crosses and follow Him, He was referring to a public display before others that Jesus was right and that the disciples were following Him even to their deaths.

2.20. So, what Cross?
2.20.1. Now this has been really messed up!
2.20.2. Some think any suffering (physical disability, loss of material things) is their cross. They say “that’s my cross to bear!”
2.20.3. Others think their temper, or battle with worry is their cross to bear …No, these aren’t crosses, but sins!
2.20.4. As long as suffering is egocentric (centered on your self); as long as it belongs to me personally; it is suffering! …but that is not the cross!

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2 Barclay; pg.201
2.20.5. Until we suffer vicariously (substitute); until my suffering is in sympathy w/others; & strength is being poured out to help others…that is the Cross! {We must look to Jesus’ cross to understand ours; because others died on crosses}

2.20.5.1. “He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant” (Phil. 2:7)

2.20.5.2. Ex: Kelly & others over Alfred’s all week (laundry/food/cleaning)

2.20.5.2.1. If I’m going after Him…I must empty or deny myself!

2.20.5.2.2. If you’re serious about following Jesus…you must take the same path…it’s a Cross-walk!!!

2.20.6. So, Discipleship doesn’t mean just the salvation of the soul, but fellowship with Him in sufferings, & then joy in the triumphs!

2.20.7. Salvation is God’s gift to us because Jesus died for us on the cross. Discipleship is our gift to Him as we take up our cross, die to self, & follow the Lord in everything.

2.21. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Gal. 2:20

2.21.1. Abraham – followed God’s leading w/o knowing where.

2.21.2. Hannah – waited for God’s perfect timing w/o knowing when.

2.21.3. Mary – experienced a miracle w/o knowing how.

2.21.4. Joseph – trusted God’s purpose w/o knowing why everything happened the way it did.

2.22. So, it is easy to be in the crowd but not so easy to carry the cross.

2.22.1. After we “come in” and find salvation (23); We must “come to” Him for our cross (26); & then “come after” Him in obedience to His will (27). 4

2.23. [3] SUBSTANCE FOR CHRIST! (33) [Christ 1st in our Possessions]

2.24. Not only all we are, but all we have is to be His.

2.24.1. True discipleship must be ready to forsake all – relinquish everything!

2.25. THE BUILDER & THE WARRIOR! (28-33)

2.26. Parable of the Tower!

2.27. A man desiring to Build – Risk was of non-completion. He must count the cost.

2.28. Parable of the King Contemplating War!

2.29. A king going to Battle - Risk was of defeat. Consider the chances of success before you send your soldiers into battle.

2.30. It’s as if Jesus said, “I’m in the world for Building & Battling”.

Therefore, I’m looking for quality work men & able soldiers.

4 Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the NT.
Q: Who do you want working on your house?
Q: Who do you want going into battle with you?

At Caesarea Philippi He said, “on this rock I will build my church.” And then He adds, “& the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

He is into both Construction & Destruction! (upstairs offices)

This is the whole Biblical Revelation:

It all started in a Garden, & will end with a City! (That's Building)
On the way in this building process, because of sin, the Lord is…a Man of War!

We also have this identical picture of Building & Battling in Nehemiah 4! {The Sword & the Trowel} Read 4:7-9 & 17,18. - Show the Sword & Trowel.

Sword - you will learn to wield the Word of God by using it often.
Trowel – What is your part of the wall to build for His kingdom?

Q: What instrument, tool, or weapon are your hands very comfortable with? {Guitar, needle & thread, gun, hammer, computer} Q: How did we get comfortable w/these? (Using them often)

“Our hands must be familiar with the sword against the attack of our spiritual enemies; & familiar with the trowel to contribute our bit of work toward God's building.”

Jesus wants men/women who will stand by Him, laying brick on brick, though the bullets fly.

This is why His terms are severe!

The Story of Gideon comes to mind also!
God can do more with 300 men who lap, than with 32,000 of a mixed-allegiance.
He is looking for quality not quantity!
“I want men & women with me who will stand by Me until the building is done, & the battle is won!”

The Lord never said it would be easy to be a Christian, never once!
We do a great injustice to the kingdom of God to promote Christianity as the secret of having a good time!
No...It's a Crusade!
Problem w/the Crusade's is that they set down their spiritual sword, & took physical swords upon the heathen!
Crusade = from Latin crux “cross.” {The Cross underlies it beg to end}

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5 F. B. Meyer
2.34.2.1. Definition of Crusade is: “a vigorous concerted action to **promote** or **eliminate** something.” [A Cross-ade!]

2.34.2.4. Jesus’ Crusade then is to **promote** his love & **eliminate** sin.

2.35. **THE TANG!** (34,35) [Tang = a sharp strong taste]

2.36. **Parable of the Savorless Salt!** (34,35)

2.37. Salt/Tang, the quality of discipleship - Risk was of insipidity (dull, bland, w/o flavor).

   2.37.1. The Christian by his courage, his hope, his cheerfulness, & his kindness, brings a new **flavor** into life.

   2.37.1.1. Q: If Christianity was an Ice Cream flavor what flavor would yours be? – Vanilla? (Rocky Road?)

2.38. He is looking for those with **“salty character”** who will help Him influence this decaying world!

2.39. Salt a.k.a. Sodium Chloride - **Sodium** is an extremely active element found naturally only in **combined** form; it always links itself to another element. **Chlorine**, on the other hand, is the poisonous gas that gives bleach its offensive odor. When **sodium and chlorine** are combined, the result is **sodium chloride**—common **table salt**—the substance we use to **preserve meat** and bring out its **flavor**. 8

   2.39.1. In forming the bond, **sodium** becomes a positively charged ion, by “**giving up**” its valence electron to **chlorine**, which then becomes a negatively charged ion.

   2.39.2. For Sodium to become Sodium-Chloride it must **give** part of itself up!

2.40. (34) “Salt is good, but if salt has **lost its taste**, how shall its **saltiness** be **restored**?” (ESV)

   2.40.1. **Salt is good** only as long as it contains the characteristics of saltiness.

   2.40.2. Q: What do you do with **gum** that loses its taste? (it goes rt under the Pew!)

   2.40.3. When a thing loses its **essential quality**, & fails to perform its **essential duty**, it is fit for nothing but to be thrown away.

2.41. (35) **Let him hear** – Did anyone hear? – If so who did?

   2.41.1. Wouldn’t you love to know the result of this **warning**…**Who** hung around?...**Who** departed? (Look at 15:1,2)

   2.41.2. Some have humble ears to **hear**; some are **deafened** by their pride!

2.42. **Salvation is free**, but it is not **cheap**!

   2.42.1. It involves **repentance**, **commitment**, & **renunciation** of anything that stands in the way of the **abundant life** to which Christ calls His disciples. 9

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9Shepherd’s Notes; pg.55