



## Life Group Study Notes

### “At Your Service, Part 2”

Ps. James Lowe - June 12, 2016

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Have you ever bought something that was probably more than you could afford, but you went ahead and got it anyway? What was it?
- Have you ever bought something that was expensive, but it wasn't worth it? What was it?
- Have you ever saved money over a long period of time in order to buy something you really desired?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

Philippians 1:6 ESV *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

God is faithful to finish what he starts. It is inherent to his nature and reflective of his character. God is never cavalier in his purposes or plans. His resolve is unfaltering. His word is established forever. No one and nothing can thwart his purposes. If it ever seems that his plans change, it is only a reflection of the moral folly of his sinful human creatures whose choices never affect God's ultimate purposes. Their sinful choices, however, do affect the execution of God's plans. Yet God knows everything, even the end from the beginning. Hence, God is never surprised by our choices. He is always good, but will bring about his purposes by altered means according to the choices people make. In terms of our salvation, God has promised to finish what he started in each of us who have turned to him in repentance and faith. Everyone who has trusted him will be conformed into the image of Jesus and receive an immortal resurrection body. God will not fail anyone who trusts him.

God's desire is for us to reciprocate the same love and commitment he has for us. He desires that we commit ourselves to him in the same way he commits himself to us.

Luke 14:25-33 ESV *Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "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. Whoever does not bear his own **cross** and come after me cannot be my disciple. 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? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 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? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."*

**Come**

Everyone is called to come to Jesus Christ, God's only appointed mediator between himself and us. Everyone is guilty before God and needs reconciliation with God. Jesus is the only one who lived a sinless life. He is the only one who died for the sins of the world. He is the only one who can offer us forgiveness. Everyone is commanded to come to Jesus and surrender to him as Lord.

### **Cross**

God requires that we fully surrender to his Son as Lord. No one and nothing must be of higher value to us than Jesus. His will must trump every other desire and every other obligation we have, if and whenever there is a conflict or divergence between our will and his. No sacrifice is too great to bear in our devotion to God. Each of us must be willing to pay any price to follow Jesus as Lord. Even the closest, most meaningful, and most important relationships in our lives must be subordinated to our loyalty and obedience to Jesus. This is the inherent meaning of the hyperbole used by Jesus when he speaks of "hating" our families and our own lives. Our love, devotion, and allegiance to Jesus must be without question higher than our love, devotion, and allegiance to our families.

### **Cost**

God wants everyone who would come to him to understand the cost involved in following his Son. The price each of us must pay is the same, though it may look different in each of our lives. Every one of us is called to give up our very lives to follow Jesus. We cannot be his disciples on a negotiated settlement. God will not negotiate with us. He paid a far greater price in sending his Son to die for our sins than we will ever pay. Jesus paid a higher price on the cross than any of us will ever pay in allegiance to him. But if we rightly appreciate his worth, we will see our cost of sacrificial obedience to be well worth it. Jesus is our great treasure. He is our great reward that will continue to bring us joy, blessings, and enrichment beyond death and into eternity.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.**

- Why is it important for a person to understand the supreme worth of being Jesus' disciple?
- Why is it important for a person to understand the cost of following Jesus?
- Is there anything you have not surrendered to Jesus as Lord of your life?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Ask God to renew your vision of God's purposes and plans that you might value his kingdom and salvation above everything and everyone else.
- Ask God if there is anything lacking in your surrender to him.
- Thank God for his promise given by Paul in Philippians 1:6 (ESV): *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*