

“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!**”¹

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
 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.³
- 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!**

² Barclay; pg.201

³Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (2:243). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- 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.

- 2.30.1. **Q:** Who do you want **working** on your house?
Q: Who do you want **going into battle** with you?
- 2.30.2. 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.**”
- 2.30.3. **He is into both Construction & Destruction!** (upstairs offices)
- 2.31. **This is the whole Biblical Revelation:**
- 2.31.1. **It all started in a Garden, & will end with a City!** (That’s Building)
- 2.31.2. On the way in this building process, *because of sin*, the Lord is...a
Man of War!
- 2.32. **We also have this identical picture of Building & Battling in Nehemiah 4!** {The
 Sword & the Trowel}
- 2.32.1. **Read 4:7-9 & 17,18. - Show the Sword & Trowel.**
- 2.32.2. **Sword** - you will learn to wield the **Word of God** by using it often.
- 2.32.3. **Trowel** – **What is your part of the wall to build for His kingdom?**
- 2.32.3.1. **Q:** What instrument, tool, or weapon are your hands very
 comfortable with? {Guitar, needle & thread, gun, hammer, computer}
- 2.32.3.2. **Q:** How did we get comfortable w/these? (Using them often)
- 2.32.4. “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.”⁵
- 2.32.5. **Jesus wants men/women who will stand by Him, laying brick on brick,
 though the bullets fly.**⁶
- 2.32.5.1. **This is why His terms are severe!**
- 2.33. **The Story of Gideon comes to mind also!**
- 2.33.1. God can do more with **300 men** who **lap**, than with **32,000** of a
mixed-allegiance.
- 2.33.2. He is looking for **quality** not **quantity!**
- 2.33.3. “I want men & women with me who will stand by Me until the **building** is
 done, & the **battle** is won!”
- 2.34. **The Lord never said** it would be easy to be a Christian, **never once!**⁷
- 2.34.1. We do a great injustice to the kingdom of God to promote Christianity
 as the secret of **having a good time!**
- 2.34.2. **No...It’s a Crusade!**
- 2.34.2.1. Problem w/the **Crusade’s** is that they set down their **spiritual**
sword, & took **physical swords** upon the heathen!
- 2.34.2.2. **Crusade = from Latin crux “cross.”** {The Cross underlies it beg to end}

⁵ F. B. Meyer

⁶ G. Cambell Morgan; The Gospel According to Luke; pg.179.

⁷ G. Cambell Morgan; The Gospel According to Luke; pg.175.

- 2.34.2.3. 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

⁸Galaxie Software. (2002; 2002). *10,000 Sermon Illustrations*. Biblical Studies Press.

⁹Shepherd’s Notes; pg.55