

Jan 30, 53 - O.M.

BARRIERS TO BLESSINGS

Luke 14:25

- v. 25
- v. 26 If any man comes
- v. 27
- v. 28
- v. 29
- v. 30
- v. 31
- v. 32
- v. 33

When I read that I wonder about these who shout the loudest and are not near him.

That lays down some restrictions that drives a man to his knees.

There are 4 things that Jesus relates to us that become distinct barriers to blessings.

They are going to be barriers in your personal life, family life, and your church life.

We need to evaluate where we stand. By grace of God destroy these.

Desire to get out of life.

v. 26  
I. ~~Unforsaken loyalty,~~ unused crosses, unused buildings  
and unfought wars.

No question about it when a man comes and decides to follow Jesus it is ~~once and for all.~~ Make no mistake about it --- ~~Choose ye this day whom ye will serve.~~

Friends, the service of God is a matter of service.

~~The Bible teaches that if a man does not have works to balance out his choice, then he does not have it!~~

~~Simple --- If a man has Jesus Christ as saviour, he recognizes him as Lord.~~

Can't know him as saviour without as Lord.

He saved you because he is Lord, and he is Lord because he is Lord!

v. 26 Jesus said you want to follow me --- You forsake your own family. "If any man come to me and hate not his father, and mother and wife and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

Forsake all --- Everything to follow me --- Now that is a lot more serious than most of us think.

People say children first, etc. --- Not scriptural.

He taught us that everything else must die in our existence in our lives.

Lots of people wear a little pin "Jesus First", but that is dangerous --- (It must be Jesus only.)

Whatever you do in word or deed do all for the glory of God.

I know how you think and feel --- But Jesus said you forsake your family.

We get caught up in things! We ask what are we going to do, what are we going to have for dinner tonight --- I remember there was a time when we had what we had.)

Can you believe that some of you got into a jam today about what suit or tie or dress to wear.

Can you imagine that when you came out of the house you had to decide whether to take his car or her car or the kids' car to come to church in!

Divesting ourselves of everything --- Give it all to  
Jesus.

How many of us can say I've sold out for Jesus?

Hang on to things of world --- That is where we have  
to turn loose.

Sell out for God --- Suffer for godliness.

15 year old girl (prayed) in family prayer meeting. "Oh  
God, I thank you that my daddy has never compromised." ---  
That would help any man!

Regardless of what comes along, if it is in the way of  
your loyalty, then it is a barrier to blessings in your life.

## II. Unused Crosses.

V. 27  
What is a cross in your life?

Hear (people talk) about lumbago --- arthritis --- and  
deacons. All in the same breath.

What do you do with a cross?

It does not make a great christian to carry a cross, but

carrying a cross without calling attention to it.

What do you do with a cross? Do you complain about it?

Or do you try to unload it!

Listen to people who have a burden and listen to them  
pray --- Jesus said learn of me, Jesus said get in my yoke and  
you won't be alone, I am on the other side of it!

Literally Jesus said my yoke is easy --- I will make one  
just to fit you.

What do you do with a cross? You carry it.

Do you want to know what the cross is --- It is self denial!

A rule of thumb is -- Whatever your flesh wants to do ---  
don't!

Whatever your flesh does not want to do, do!

That will work every time --- In the flesh dwelleth no  
good thing --- Hard to believe isn't it.

Nothing in us good --- Folks say if I know my heart ---

Bible says the human heart is deceitful and wicked and no man can know it --- Why then do we talk about knowing it?

Carrying our cross is saying no to that which is comfortable to self, we want to do for own convenience.

Carrying a cross is for others, just self denial, don't you agree ---

People say I've read this book and I've gone to this group meeting/and they say how can I get filled with the spirit and I say to them, it is (simple) just quit sinning! That's true --- You empty your life and you will get filled up.

The more sin we cut out of our life, the more capacity we have for God through the Holy Spirit.

A matter of self denial.

### III. Unused Building --- Unfinished.

v. 28 For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

v. 29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him.

v. 30 Saying, this man began to build and was not able to finish.

I have been preaching for over forty years and seen those who stay with their work.

I get sick and tired of seeing some preachers who do what they do for 5% of the carnal church members.

It is high time they refuse little side shows.

Jesus said when I told you to lay the foundation, I had a superstructure in mind, I had a roof in mind --- So get with it!

The work of God must not be abandoned. There is no need to flip flop problems --- Preachers need to stay on their knees and stay by the staff. No church ever reached greatness in the kingdom of God without a preacher staying by the staff.

I'm not saying be rude or rough shod. In Palestine I saw a shepherd and some sheep. He stayed with the flock. Preachers need to stay and love their flocks. Finish the building.

#### IV. Unfought Battles.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood.

VBI

iph  
6:12

Why when do you think some person in the church is your problem?

He is flesh and blood.

Lack of understanding about spiritual warfare.

There is a personal devil --- We battle principalities, rulers of darkness and demons. We wrestle against principalities, powers, rulers.

We have an adversary. Enemy ---

Learn what your weapons are --- And use them before the enemy ever gets started.

Some folks do not know where the battlefield is, much less getting the armor on!

We are in a war against the demons of hell.

But you say that is supernatural. Yes it is, the devil is supernatural.

Lord taught us there is a warfare.

Some say you see a demon behind every bush --- Yes,  
because there is one! Demons are real.

v. 31 What king, going to make war against another king,  
sitteth not down first and consulteth whether he be able with  
10,000 to meet him that cometh against him with 20,000?

v. 32 While he is great way off, he desires peace.

v. 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh  
not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Jesus said, you have some unfought battles. The enemy is  
at your door. In Christ there is authority to deal with the  
demons in your life.

Super Bowl - thousands \$ - crowds - some  
Players make 1, 2, 3 million playing -  
What is all that - some soul + go to hell - gain whole world.  
Super God - put in eternal Super Bowl - life everlasting.