

The Call & The Cause

The Law of Cause And Effect - Every cause has a specific effect and every effect has a specific cause.

This means that everything that we currently have in our lives or are doing in our lives is an effect that is a result of a specific cause.

THE CAUSE

We see why Jesus came in Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

The people were upset that Jesus called down Zacchaeus and went to his house to eat with him. Verse 7 - *But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.* 8 **Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"** 9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham." 10 **"I came to seek and save those who are lost."**

That word save in the greek is - sōzō (from sōs, "safe, rescued") – properly, deliver out of danger and into safety. - Search and rescue

Jesus came on a rescue mission. And on this rescue mission, he beckons to us...as he did the disciples to "follow him"

THE CALL

Matthew 9:9-13 NLT - "As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. 10 **Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.** 11 But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" 12 When Jesus heard this, he said, "**Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.**" 13 Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: '**I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.**' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

- **The two groups of people here are - Tax collectors and sinners (far from God) and Pharisees (religious people who think they are close to God.)**

*Jesus was referencing Hosea 6:6 where he said "**For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.**"*

Isaiah 64 says When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags - Our works, what makes us "seem" righteous are as filthy rags compared to the righteousness that God gives us in Christ Jesus.

If we are only doing religious activities with no relationship we are missing the grace of God which is right in front of us.

The Cause of Christ calls us to 2 things

*Luke 14: 25-33 NLT - 25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, 26 "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. **Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.** 27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, **you cannot be my disciple.** 28 "**But don't begin until you count the cost.** For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. 30 They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'*

1. Count the cost

*Verse 33 **So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.***

Today's translation - leave behind earthly pursuits. Money, reputation, relationships, our desire to be loved on this earth. Those are close relationships that he was mentioning.

Then in Luke 15 - Jesus tells 3 parables. Lost & Found - Great lengths to find.

It's not about sacrifice. **It's about mercy. It's a rescue mission we are on.**

He's is showing us what we are to value...the lost.

2. Reach the lost

Count the cost. Reach the lost.

Jesus then goes into Luke 16 - The parable of the unjust manager. Now he is speaking to the disciples. Jesus then tells us here in Luke 16:8 - *The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. 9 **And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.***

Our lives are to center around the cause of Christ. Instead we put God in the mix of a life that is centered around ourselves.

Without Christ, without the cause and the call of Christ our lives don't really have much purpose.

We are not just saved FROM an old life we are saved TO a new life. New life means new purpose.

****Salvation is the starting block of the race, not the finish line.**

*Paul says in Philippians 3:8 - Indeed, **I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.** For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.*

Where am I today?

1. Have I counted the cost, really counted the cost of discipleship?
2. Am I on this rescue mission with Jesus? Is my life about the cause of Christ?
3. Have I morphed into a religious person whose more focused on outward appearance and looking good than on inward transformation?