

Let us pray,

Lord, teach us to be true disciples, no matter the cost.

Amen.

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What are we willing to lose for the sake of discipleship?

You know that saying when people want the best of both worlds in something, we say; they want their cake and to eat it too.

We all know what that means, but listen to it more carefully.

They want their cake and they want to eat it too.

Like of course I want to eat my cake!

I don't buy cake to just look at it!

What kind of crazy nonsense is this saying???

And yet we all are just like, yes, makes perfect sense, that selfish person wanting to eat that cake they bought!

The audacity!

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It actually drove me a little nuts that we all just accepted this proverb as if it had any wisdom to share.

So I looked into it.

The original saying was from the 16th century, and it was actually slightly different.

This was the original saying;

“a selfish person wants to be eating their cake and having it too.”

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So what they are saying is that selfish people want to be able to eat the cake without the cake ever going away because they ate it.

Which makes wayyyy more sense than the way we currently say it.

But pastor what in the world does this have to do with the Gospel?

Well ill tell you!

A lot actually.

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Jesus rudely says that we need to hate our family if we are going to love him.

A more accurate translation would actually be that we have to “love-less” rather than “hate”.

Apparently loving our family and loving Jesus is eating our cake and having it too.

But why would Jesus say such a thing??

Because the cost of discipleship is the death of what was.

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For Jesus, being a disciple means that we are all in.

That we would choose Jesus above all else, including our family.

Now this has gone wrong in many ways before.

Where family members would kick other family members out of their lives because they thought that those certain family members weren't living a Christ centered life, there fore out they go.

They chose Jesus over their family, right?

Well not really.

Please do not ever ever do this.

Kicking people out of your life because you think that they aren't living a Jesus centered life, is not putting Jesus before your family.

That is putting punishment and self-righteousness above love and grace.

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Jesus goes on to say about not being prepared and not having enough resources but still building or going to war.

And what Jesus is trying to say, is that when we put our faith in our family, in life itself, or in our possessions, we will always come up short, we will always lose.

Family will disappoint us, life will end and our possessions can be stolen or ruined or taken away.

To put faith in any of those things is like building a foundation without planning or thinking you can win a war where your enemy out weighs you, 2 to 1.

As humans, we want to be eating our cake and having it too.

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We want to be able to put our faith in other humans, especially family that they will always be there for us, or always do or say the right thing.

But unfortunately, that just isn't realistic.

We want life to last forever and be pain free, but that dream is just not a reality.

We want our possessions to fill a hole within us, but all we do is end up wanting more.

We can't love two masters.

We can't eat cake and always have it in front of us.

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We can either eat it, or have it, we can't have both.

And for Jesus, we can either follow him or follow the world, we can't do both.

But boy wouldn't it be nice if we could!

Jesus reminds us, that in this version of reality, there is always a cost, and it is ours to choose.

The cost of discipleship or the cost of selfishness.

Jesus clearly thinks that the cost of living a life for others, is much better than the cost of living a life for oneself.

But there is always a cost.

And for Jesus, the cost of following God provides a much greater reward than the reward of selfishness.

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Because Jesus understands that the only way to truly live is to die.

The only way to experience the fullness of God is to leave this life behind for the next.

Remember, when faced with the tree of life or the tree of knowledge of good and evil, us humans have the tendency to want to be God, than to want to be with God.

This world is no different than the Garden of Eden.

Jesus loves us no matter what, and just like with the Genesis story, God will always be merciful.

And no matter the choice we make, God will love us and walk with us.

Because if God isn't gracious in our worst of times, than God isn't Gracious at all.

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But we do get a choice, and Jesus calls us into that choice.

To choose Jesus, choose discipleship, choose radical love above blood family, above life, above all worldly desires.

Because when we can look around and see all of us as siblings, brothers and sisters, we can see a glimpse of heaven where no living thing is without a seat at the table, we all share one holy parent in an eternal family tree.

And most importantly, where we can have our cake, and eat it too.

Amen.