

The Tower & the Warring King

August 17, 2025 | Luke 14:28-33



Observation: What is happening here?

Context — This parable occurs after *The Parable of the Wedding Feast* (Luke 14:7-11) and *The Parable of The Great Banquet* (Luke 14:12-24):

Great crowds travel with Jesus. Christ calls for a decision to follow Him. It is a call to place him above family and even one's own life. (From old to new life)

Parabolic Outline (vv.28-33):

- **v28-30:** The Tower: a man first sits down to calculate. Starting without finishing invites public mockery.
- **v31-32:** The Warring King: a king first sits down to deliberate. Being outmatched, he seeks terms of peace while the other is far off.
- **v33:** Summary: “Whoever does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple.” - That we are to calculate/deliberate a *response* to Christ.
- **Lexical**: “**calculate**” (*psephizō*) derives from *psephos* = “**pebble**,” a word for counting/voting. Picture a deliberate, tangible response.

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John 6:47 (ESV) “*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life*”

Interpretation: What can we learn?

Sit Down and Respond to Christ

- Counting the cost should lead us to a “yes” to Jesus. Begin & finish with Him.
- **Scripture:** *Luke 14:28-30; Ecclesiastes 5:4-5; Proverbs 24:27.*

Consider the Consequence (Seek the Stronger King)

- We are *outmatched* without Christ. Humility (like the warring king) admits limits and seeks His peace.
- **Scripture:** *Luke 14:31-32; John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 12:9.*

Surrender the Old Life for the New

- Let go of the old life. Come to Christ. Believe in Jesus as Lord. Seek him like the treasure/pearl and gain salvation through faith in Christ.
- **Scripture:** *Luke 14:33; Philippians 3:7-8; Matthew 13:44-46.*

Application: How should we live?

Respond by casting your pebble

- Believe first: trust in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
Deliberate/calculate, pray, and decide with no turning back.
- **Scripture:** *1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 6:2.*

Let God work on you until the end

- What He begins, He completes. Let God work in & through you. Build habits & spiritual practices as continued growth: (Word, prayer, fellowship, service).
- **Scripture:** *Philippians 1:6; Zechariah 4:6; Hebrews 10:24-25.*

Live the new life as God’s hands and feet

- Everything is His: time, talent, treasure, testimony, offer it for His kingdom.
- **Scripture:** *Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Matthew 6:33.*

Closing Challenge:

Sit down (relax), count (*reflect*), and commit (*respond*) to Christ! May you place your *pebble* in **Christ!**

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