

A shepherd in a dark robe and hat, holding a staff, leads a large flock of sheep along a dirt path. The scene is set in a hazy, mountainous landscape during sunrise or sunset, with warm, golden light illuminating the scene. The sheep are moving away from the viewer towards the shepherd in the distance. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a soft, hazy sky.

# High stakes

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**Are you a sheep?**

**A full-time or part-time sheep?**

**Do we need a full-time shepherd  
or a hired hand?**

**Jesus' shepherding role is a  
response to our need & perfect  
expression of His eternal nature**



**ARISE, SHINE**  
YOUR LIGHT HAS COME



When is something **High Stakes**?

Do we have a **High Stakes** faith?

How is our faith different from a **High Stakes** activity?

1. Our faith is not based on chance
2. Our faith is not based on skill
3. Our faith is not in an outcome
4. Our faith is in a person

**Our faith is in a person, in the reliability of his words, commands & promises. When we believe in Him, He promises us several outcomes.**

- 1. Eternal life: John 3:16**
- 2. Forgiveness of sins: Acts 10:43**
- 3. Peace with God: Romans 5:1**
- 4. Abundant life: John 10:10**
- 5. Access to God: Ephesians 3:12**
- 6. Empowerment by the Holy Spirit: Galatians 3:14**
- 7. Victory over the world: 1 John 5:4-5**

**Our faith in Jesus secures these outcomes! We have surety!**





How is our faith the same as a **High Stakes** activity?

1. We “wager” body, spirit and mind.
2. We “wager” our time, space and actions
3. We “wager” eternity



# When we say yes to Jesus as Saviour King, we say yes to the following?

1. **Submission:** Yielding our desires to Jesus's authority – Rom 12:1
2. **Sovereignty:** Recognizing Jesus as supreme ruler – Phil 2:9-11
3. **Obedience:** Aligning thoughts, and actions with Jesus – John 14:15
4. **Dependency:** Trusting Jesus for all needs – Phil 4:19
5. **Priority:** Placing Jesus above all – Gal 2:20
6. **Surrender:** Entrusting past, present, and future to Jesus – Prov 3:5-6
7. **Transformation:** Cooperating with Holy Spirit's work – Rom 12:2

This is **ALL OR NOTHING**. This conforms to Jesus's requirements for becoming his disciples in Luke 14. Friendship with the world is hostility towards God!





**Our faith was birthed through the highest price/sacrifice.**

**For our faith to have its full work in us it will require a high price from you.**

**A test is necessary to expose our allegiance. There is no testimony without a test.**



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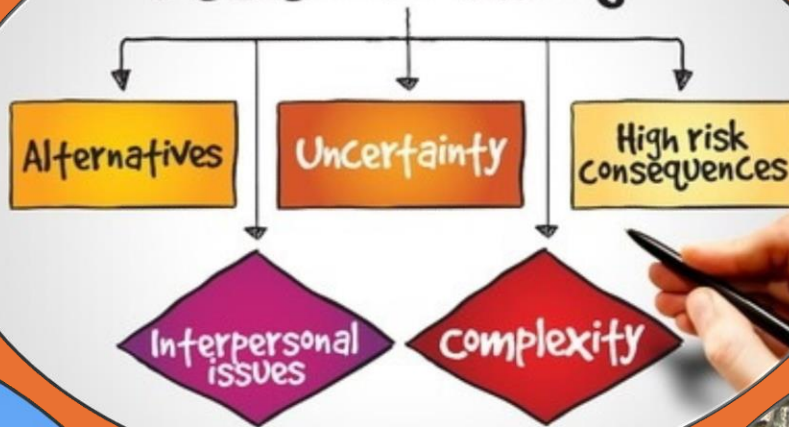
**Luk 14:28-32** Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.





# Decision Making



**Luk 14:26-27,33** If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters - yes, even their own life - such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Jesus requires our primary allegiance - **Matt 10:37**

Jesus requires self-denial and the willingness to endure suffering and sacrifice.

- Carrying a cross involved the person carrying their cross to the place of execution. It's a public display of their submission to Roman authority and acceptance of their fate.

Jesus requires a willingness to sacrifice anything that competes with total devotion to Him. Surrender control since it ultimately belongs to God





**Remember  
what faith  
in Jesus  
secures us!**



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**Were you aware of the cost of following Jesus? Did you say yes to a saviour but not king?**

**Have you gotten hurt, or have you been disillusioned with the cost of discipleship?**

**Following Jesus requires the highest stakes – what suffering, burden, status, success or relationship is too much to give up?**

**Have you invited him into browsing, your dreams, your retirement plan, your escapisms, your fears, your comforts? Where does Jesus not have a say? Is he Lord of all?**



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**Let's Pray**