

**To Speak in Parables**  
Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

***If You Build It, They May Come***  
Parable of the Tower Builder

Mark Vitalis Hoffman  
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**Tower Builder**  
**Luke 14.28-30**

Τίς γὰρ ἐξ ὑμῶν θέλων πύργον οἰκοδομῆσαι οὐχὶ πρῶτον καθίσας ψηφίζει τὴν δαπάνην, εἰ ἔχει εἰς ἀπαρτισμὸν;

For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't sit down first and compute the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?

**Tower Builder**  
**Luke 14.28-30**

ἵνα μήποτε θέντος αὐτοῦ θεμέλιον καὶ μὴ ἰσχύοντος ἐκτελέσαι πάντες οἱ θεωροῦντες ἄρξωνται αὐτῷ ἐμπαίξειν

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish the tower, all who see it will begin to make fun of him.

**Tower Builder**  
**Luke 14.28-30**

λέγοντες ὅτι οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἤρξατο οἰκοδομεῖν καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσεν ἐκτελέσαι.

They will say, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish!'

**Tower Builder**  
**Luke 14.28-30**

First Impressions? Questions? Comments?

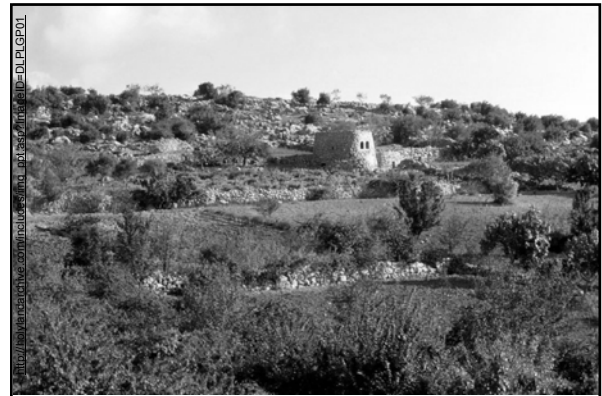
**Tower Builder**  
**Luke 14.28-30**

Proverbial / Conventional Wisdom

- Proverbs 24:3 - By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.
- Look before you leap!
- Measure twice, cut once.
- A job half-done  
is worse than one never begun.

**Tower Builder  
Luke 14.28-30**

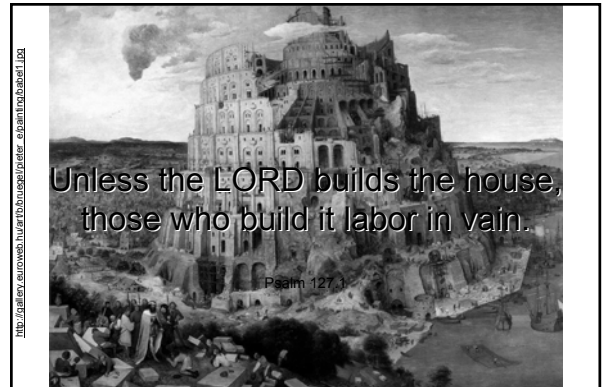
What kind of tower / πύργον is this?



A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower. *Mark 12.1*



Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers. *Psalms 48:12*



Come, let's build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves. *Genesis 11.5*

**Tower Builder  
Luke 14.28-30**

For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't sit down first and compute the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?

*Isn't this sufficient for an illustration?*

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish the tower, all who see it will begin to make fun of him.

They will say, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish!'

*What is the point of introducing others' opinion?*

**Tower Builder  
Luke 14.28-30**

For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't sit down first and compute the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish the tower, all who see it will begin to make fun of him.

They will say, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish!'

*Is the person simply afraid of being mocked?*

**Tower Builder  
Luke 14.28-30**

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish the tower, all who see it will begin to make fun (ἐμπαιζῶ) of him.

They will say, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish!'

Luke 23:36-37 (and 18.32, 22.63, 23.11)

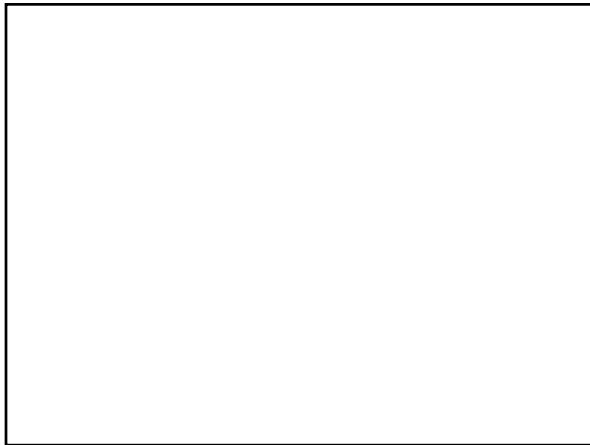
The soldiers also mocked (ἐμπαιζῶ) him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

**Tower Builder  
Luke 14.28-30**

*How does the 'frame' for this parable function?*

<sup>26</sup> "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.



**To Speak in Parables**  
Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

*If I Only Had a Plan*  
Parable of the Campaign Planner

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**Campaign Planner  
Luke 14.31-32**

Ἦ τις βασιλεὺς πορευόμενος ἐτέρῳ βασιλεῖ συμβαλεῖν εἰς πόλεμον οὐχὶ καθίσας πρῶτον βουλευέσεται εἰ δυνατὸς ἐστὶν ἐν δέκα χιλιάσιν ὑπαντῆσαι τῷ μετὰ εἴκοσι χιλιάδων ἐρχομένῳ ἐπ' αὐτόν; εἰ δὲ μὴ γέ, ἐτι αὐτοῦ πόρρω ὄντος πρεσβείαν ἀποστέλλας ἐρωτᾷ τὰ πρὸς εἰρήνην.

Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

**Campaign Planner  
Luke 14.31-32**

First Impressions? Questions? Comments?

### Campaign Planner Luke 14.31-32

Proverbial / Conventional Wisdom

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### Campaign Planner Luke 14.31-32

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*What are the terms of peace* (τὰ πρὸς εἰρήνην)?  
Luke 19:41-42 As [Jesus] came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace (τὰ πρὸς εἰρήνην)! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

### Campaign Planner Luke 14.31-32

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*What are the terms of peace* (τὰ πρὸς εἰρήνην)?  
*What if the terms are not acceptable?*  
*What are the options?*

### Campaign Planner Luke 14.31-32

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*Is the goal victory or peace?*

### Campaign Planner Luke 14.31-32

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If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.  
(τὰ πρὸς εἰρήνην)

*What is the difference between this parable and the Tower Builder?*

- *In terms of planning*
- *In terms of possible outcomes*

### Campaign Planner Luke 14.31-32

*How does the 'frame' for this parable function?*

<sup>26</sup> "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>33</sup> So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Tower Builder & Campaign Planner  
Luke 14.28-32

- *What is the cost of discipleship to followers of Jesus?*
- *What is the cost of discipleship to God?*