

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
www.CrossMarks.com

Tower Builder
Luke 14.28-30

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

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

Tower Builder
Luke 14.28-30

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

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish it, all who see it will begin to mock him,

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

...saying, "This guy began to build and was not able to finish!"

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Luke 14.28-30

First Impressions? Questions? Comments?

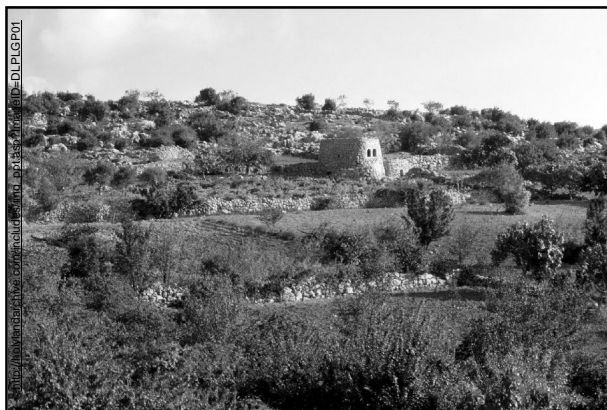
Tower Builder
Luke 14.28-30

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

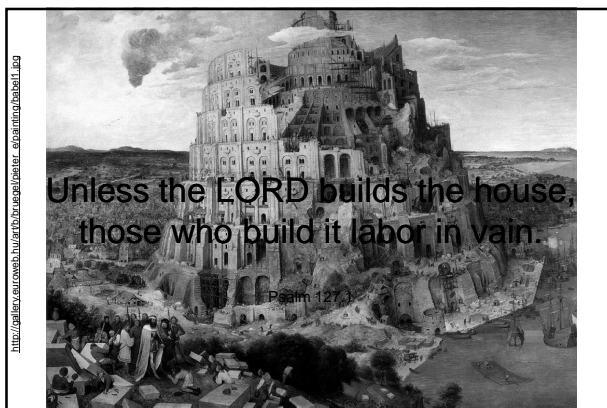
What kind of tower / πύργον is this?



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. *Psalm 48:12*



Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. *Psalm 127.1*
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*

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

Isn't this sufficient for an illustration?

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish it, all who see it will begin to mock 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 to complete it?

Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish it, all who see it will begin to mock 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 it, all who see it will begin to mock (ἐμπαιζῶ) 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?

²⁶ "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. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

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

To Speak in Parables

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If I Only Had a Plan Parable of the Campaign Planner

Mark Vitalis Hoffman
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Campaign Planner Luke 14.31-32

Ἦ τίς βασιλεὺς πορευόμενος ἐτέρῳ βασιλεῖ συμβαλεῖν εἰς πόλεμον οὐχὶ καθίσας πρῶτον βουλευσεται εἰ δυνατός ἐστιν ἐν δέκα χιλιάσιν ὑπαντῆσαι τῷ μετὰ εἴκοσι χιλιάδων ἐρχομένῳ ἐπ' αὐτόν; εἰ δὲ μὴ γε, ἔτι αὐτοῦ πόρρω ὄντος πρεσβείαν ἀποστείλας 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

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

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

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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?*