



## Discipleship— The Cost

Luke 14:25-35

### Salvation is free – discipleship costs everything!

#### Big Idea

Our Lord Jesus Christ has commanded us to Make Disciples with guaranteed results personally and in others. This process is wrought with challenges, expectations, and responsibilities. Jesus never sugarcoats His commands but tells us to calculate the costs, but, in the end, the investment made pales in significance to the results gained!

#### Hard Sayings

*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.”* (Luke 14:26)

- *hate* (miseo) = to love less. This means we must love all less than Christ

*And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”* (Luke 14:27 NIV)

- a call to self denial
- voluntarily and decisively accepts the pain, shame, and persecution for the sake of Christ
- must begin to follow and continue to follow Christ

Caution: Jesus is not advocating a monastic lifestyle, nor self flagellation in order to gain favor with God. But rather, a willingness to take what ever comes with being a disciple of Jesus.

#### The Illustrations

*“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower...Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king...”* (Luke 14:28-33)

- Jesus is not saying from these illustrations that the tower should not be built or the king should not go to war, but that careful calculation and preparation should be made for both

*“In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”* (Luke 14:33 NIV)

- The design of Christ, therefore, is to warn his followers to *bear the cross*, that they may prepare themselves with courage.

#### The Savor

*“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.”* (Luke 14:34-35 NIV)

- one who merely makes a profession of be a disciple of Christ without total commitment, is as useless as salt that has lost it’s saltiness.

*“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”* (Luke 14:35 NIV)

- *hear* (akouo) carries with it the necessity of understanding the implications of what is being communicated.

#### The Purpose of the Church

*“...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”* (Matthew 16:18-19 NIV)

- Church would become the gatekeeper of those who were the disciples of Jesus Christ.
- The words *bind* and *loose* were rabbinical terms meaning to forbid and permit.
- This authority and power given to the church was meant to be used to guide His disciples in their journey to become like Him.

*“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”* (Hebrews 13:17 NIV)

- *obey* (*peitho*) = have confidence, trust
- *submit* (*hipeiko*) = to surrender: – submit self

In our local church, that commitment statement is called membership!

- The membership process is a mutual expectation which includes the use of ones Spiritual Gifts.

#### Conclusion

Are you fully committed to Jesus Christ in such a way that you know He demands your all? Are you committed to His church in such a way that, through membership, you promise to yield yourself to it’s authority and discipline? Do you desire to use your spiritual gifts for the furtherance of His church? *“Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:13 NIV)