

The Cost of Discipleship (Luke 14:25-35)

In Matt 28:19, Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.”

The main job Jesus left for us to do was to make disciples. What does it mean to be a disciple? Beginning in Luke 14:25, Jesus gives 5 descriptions that answer this question.

I. Love Jesus Supremely: Verse 26

To the large crowd Jesus turned and said to them, “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.”

The word hate in the Greek is a little different than our use of the word hate. The word “Hate” means to “Love Less.” There is an O.T. examples of this.

Gen 29:30 says that Jacob loved Rachel more than he loved Leah and the next verse says, “The Lord saw that Leah was hated.”

That does mean that Jacob hated Leah, he just loved her less than Rachel.

To be a disciple of Jesus means, we must love Him more than anyone else, even family.

II. Cross: Live like a dead person: Verse 27

Jesus continued saying, “And anyone who does not bear his cross and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”

What does it mean to bear a cross? During the time of Christ, if you saw someone carrying a cross it meant one thing and one thing only, death.

Gal 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me...”

Gal 5:24, “those belonging to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Gal 6:14, ““May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

III. Tower: Consider the value of a good finish: Verse 28-33

Jesus said, “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’”

Jesus presents the image of a man who plans on building a tower. In the construction process, he must first, “count the cost” to see if he has enough resources to finish the job.

Sometimes we wonder why people get baptized and shortly afterwards that’s the last time we see them. What happened? They failed to count the cost.

In Philippians 1:6 Paul said, “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.”

In 1 Cor 9:24, Paul says, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.”

IV. A War: Surrender to the stronger king (Vs 31)

In this image, Jesus describes two kings. One is outnumbered, so he wisely surrenders and makes peace. Surrendering requires humility doesn’t it? It takes humility to surrender to Jesus.

Have you come to a place in your life where you have surrendered everything you have and everything you are to Jesus?

V. Salt: Stay pure to preserve goodness (Vs 34-35)

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is neither fit for the soil nor for the dunghill. It must be thrown out.”

Salt was extremely valuable during the time of Jesus. Sometimes Roman soldiers were paid with salt. Even today we speak of someone who is “not worth their salt.” Salt was used to preserve food. It was used to slow down decay and preserved the goodness of meat.

Like salt, we can slow down the decaying process of our culture by preserving goodness.

Close:

In these verse, Jesus puts up a sign that says, “Beware, this is what it means to be my disciple.”

Love Jesus supremely, crucify the old you, finish what you start, surrender to Jesus, and preserve goodness.