

The High Cost of a Higher Calling

Luke 14:26-35

Today's Question: Have you fully surrendered your life to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Passage Background: Jesus has been doing some pretty impressive things—healing the sick, raising the dead, leading people to faith, feeding the needy, and preaching the Kingdom of God. As a result, large crowds followed Jesus—many with wrong or mixed motives. The context of this passage is Jesus is telling this large crowd what it looks like to fully follow Him as His disciple. This passage is not about salvation, but about discipleship. Salvation is free, but discipleship is very costly.

It is a sad reality that many Christians are truly saved, but they are not truly a disciple of Jesus.

Luke 14:26-35 (NKJV); ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish it— ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Tasteless Salt Is Worthless

³⁴ "Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

The High Cost of a Higher Calling: 5 Costly Sacrifices of Discipleship

To truly be a disciple of Jesus...

1. **I must love _____ more than my very own _____** (v. 26).
- If anyone comes to me—Jesus is laying out the cost of discipleship.
 - Salvation is free, but discipleship is costly.
 - Hate his father, mother, wife, children, brother, sisters, and his own life—what in the world is Jesus talking about here?

Hatred=_____ love

→Matthew 10:37; He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Scripture Insight: "does not hate: The essence of discipleship is giving Christ first place. To "hate" one's family and even one's life is rhetorical. It refers to desiring something less than something else. This instruction was especially appropriate in Jesus' day, since a decision for Jesus could mean rejection by family and persecution even to the point of death.

Since salvation is a free gift, why is discipleship so costly?

- 1) The greatest _____ should always produce the greatest _____.
- 2) Jesus fully gave His _____ for us, so our only rational response is to fully give our lives in _____.
- 3) God has a _____ for your life that will only be fulfilled if you fully follow His plan for your life.
- 4) _____ is at stake—so a costly discipleship is demanded.
- 5) You are the Body of Christ in this world and this world needs Christians who are _____ following Jesus.

2. **I must be willing to _____ for Jesus so much that I would be willing to _____ for Jesus** (v. 27).
3. **I must count the _____ of discipleship _____ I decide to follow Jesus** (v. 28-33).

Jesus gives two illustrations to help us realize the importance of counting the cost to follow Jesus:

- 1) The _____ who wants to build a tower: He must see if he has the resources to build the tower before he moves forward with the construction.

Luke 9:61-62; ⁶¹ And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

- 2) The _____ who is getting ready for a **battle**: He must see if he has the necessary manpower to overcome a larger enemy.

- Jesus' point: I must be willing to sacrificially surrender the temporary that I may invest in that which is eternal (v. 33).

Quote: "Forsake all. Only those willing to carefully assess the cost and invest all they had in His kingdom were worthy to enter. This speaks of something far more than mere abandonment of one's material possessions; it is an absolute, unconditional surrender. **His disciples were permitted to retain no privileges and make no demands.** They were to safeguard no cherished sins; treasure no earthly possessions; and cling to no secret self-indulgences. Their commitment to Him must be without reservation." -John MacArthur

4. **I must stay _____: Staying active, fresh, and being influential in the Kingdom of God** (v. 34-35).

- Salt is good. A disciple is salty. What does it mean to be like salt?
 - 1) Salt is a p_____: Others should feel like they are better because I am in their lives.
 - 2) Salt is a h_____ agent: I should promote healing in the lives of the brokenhearted.
 - 3) Salt promotes f_____: As a catalyst, I make bad situations seem better because of the flavor I bring to each opportunity.
 - 4) Salt produces t_____: After people interact with me, they should have a greater thirst for God.
- What happens when a Saint loses his/her saltiness?

5 practices that minimize my saltiness:

- 1) By losing my first love.
- 2) By neglecting to spend quality time daily with Jesus.
- 3) By pursuing pleasure above purpose.
- 4) By missing out on serving God and others in the local church.
- 5) By hesitating to actively share my faith with others.

- The warning: Salt that loses its effectiveness loses its opportunity.
- Jesus' closing finale: He who has ears to hear, let him hear! -Take this to heart and take immediate action, because while salvation is free, discipleship is costly!

Christ Connection: Jesus gave us His life for us, and He expects us to give up our lives in service to Him as His disciple.

Today's Big Idea (A short summary): Salvation is free, but discipleship is very costly.



1. **Salvation**-Have you accepted Jesus' free gift of salvation? If not, make that decision today!
2. **Surrender**-Have you fully surrendered every area of your life to the Lordship of Jesus? If not, make that decision today!
3. **Service**-Are you wanting to be a disciple of Jesus? Count the cost. If you are willing to pay the price, then sign up to be Jesus' disciple and start following Him today. Take up your cross and follow Jesus!

Next Sunday (Invite a Friend): "God's Lost and Found Department" from Luke 15:1-10.