

Luke 14:25-35

**Introduction:** This teaching is directed to all, not just the converted.

- 1) The setting—14:25 <sup>25</sup> *Now large crowds were traveling with Him, and having turned, He said to them,*
- 2) The true cost of discipleship—14:26-33
  - a) Loving God more than any human allegiance—14:26 <sup>26</sup> *“If (1<sup>st</sup> class condition) anyone comes to [πρός] Me and does not hate his father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he is not able to be My disciple.*
    - i) Discipleship is fundamentally a call to allegiance. There was no casual devotion to Jesus. (Bock)
    - ii) The call to hatred is rhetorical, as it cannot contradict the call to love our neighbors. It is NOT a call to be insensitive or to leave all feeling behind. (Bock)
  - b) Loving God more than possible rejection by others—14:27 <sup>27</sup> *And whoever does not carry his cross and come after Me is not able to be My disciple.*
    - i) You must turn from your human allegiances, bear the loss, and follow Christ. (Magill)
  - c) Loving God by counting the cost of commitment—14:28-32
    - i) Illustrated from construction—14:28-30 <sup>28</sup> *For which of you<sup>pl</sup>, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, everyone who sees it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’*
      - (1) The failure is not God’s, but the professed disciple’s—because of a lack of commitment, resolve, and reflection.
      - (2) How foolish to begin building something, only to leave a shell. (Bock)
    - ii) Illustrated from politics and military—14:31-32 <sup>31</sup> *Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and deliberate if he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> Or else, while the other is still at a distance, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace.*
    - iii) Pastor J. C. Ryle reminds us: It costs something to be a true Christian. Let that never be forgotten. To be a mere nominal Christian, and go to church, is cheap and easy work. But to hear Christ’s voice, and follow Christ, and believe in Christ, and confess Christ, requires much self-denial. It will cost us our sins, and our self-righteousness, and our ease, and our worldliness.
  - d) Loving God more than earthly things—14:33 <sup>33</sup> *So therefore, every one of you<sup>pl</sup> who does not detach himself from all his own possessions is not able to be My disciple.”*

- i) Here is the cost you must count and bear. This is the same as hating your own life. Your habit of life must be one of separating yourself from possessions to take hold of real life (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:19) (Magill)
- ii) Jesus is not a minimalist when it comes to commitment. It is not how little one can give that is the question, but how much God deserves. (Bock)
- e) Loving God consistently so as to be useful—14:34-35
  - i) <sup>34</sup> “Salt is good, but if (3<sup>rd</sup> class condition) *the salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned?* <sup>35</sup> *It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; they throw it away.*
    - (1) Just as tasteless salt is useless, so also is a “disciple” who does not carry his cross and follow after Christ. (Magill)
    - (2) Similar to our figure of speech that someone “ran out of gas.” (Bock)
  - ii) *The one who has ears to listen had better listen.*”

**Take-home truth:** genuine discipleship demands that Jesus have first place