

Jesus: The Good News

The Cost of Following Jesus

Sermon Discussion Guide for the week of October 14, 2015

Main Point: Following Jesus requires that we love Him more than anything else.

Luke 14: 25-35

CONNECT

What is the most expensive thing you have ever saved up to buy?

When you look at your appearance in the mirror what is the story you tell yourself?

If your house were on fire and your family was safe, what possession would you most want to save? Why is it so valuable to you?

What is our usual reaction when someone tries to take things that are precious to us away from us? Why?

LEARN

Ask a volunteer to Read Luke 14:25-27.

What's your initial reaction to these words from Jesus? Why?

Why might discipleship cost you relationships?

Do family commitments or other priorities ever hinder your commitment to first seek God's will or plan for your life? Why or why not?

If someone you didn't know took a look at your life, what would they say you place above following Jesus?

What actions can you take to ensure that your relationship with Jesus takes precedence over all other relationships?

What do you think Jesus means by bearing one's own cross and following Him (v. 27)?

Do you find it easier for you to prioritize your relationship with Jesus over your family or over your own interests?

Ask a volunteer read Luke 14:28-33.

What point was Jesus making through His illustrations about the tower builder and the king?

What do you think Jesus meant when He told the crowd to count the cost of following Him?

What costs keep people from following Jesus today? What things in your life would you find most difficult to give up for the sake of following Christ?

What does this text reveal about why discipleship might cost you possessions?

Ask a volunteer to Read Luke 14:34-35.

What does the salt analogy emphasize about discipleship?

Have you had to forfeit a pursuit of something else because of your commitment to Jesus?

Read Hebrews 12:1-2,

Do you think it is possible to cast aside everything that hinders our following Christ? What if that is your family, or your friends, or your job?

How do these verses encourage you in your effort to follow Jesus wholeheartedly?

SERVE

What does “a lifestyle of sacrifice in the name of Jesus” look like? What are some of the key characteristics of this lifestyle?

Where have you seen the cost of discipleship in your life? Is there anything in your life right now that, if you gave it up, you would be better equipped to love people and point them to Christ? If so, what?

How can you support someone else in the group as he or she examines their own priorities this week? How might doing so help you love Jesus more deeply as well?

PRAYER

Spend quiet time reflecting on the cost of discipleship and any convictions God is revealing about making Him your highest priority. Recommit yourself to God and the ministry He has called you to during this prayer time.