



friendship
community church

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14: 25-35

Week of February 9-15, 2020

Start out tonight by asking, What is one thing you would find it difficult for you to do without in life? If time permits, allow them to share why it would be difficult for them to live without.

"Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. 'Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.'"

Luke 14:25-35 ESV

As the leader tonight, Share how you describe your life before you came to know Christ, you know when you were bad. Referring to ourselves "back then" as "when we were bad" focuses on our behavior. Interestingly enough, we still can refer to ourselves as "when we are bad" because we are quick to return to old patterns of sin. We all have a tendency to place idols in our lives. Remember the 1st commandment - have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:3

The Cost of Discipleship (Matthew 10:37-39 a dynamic translation of the saying)

Does Jesus really mean we must hate our family to follow Him? (Luke translates more literally as hate.)

What Jesus is saying is that -

1. Jesus is Supreme (if you love anyone more than Me, then you cannot be my disciple) (if you prefer anyone/anything more than God you are not my disciple) God is more important than family. Single-minded for God. Ask, What do you find yourself thinking about the most?
2. Jesus is your example. (Pick up your cross and follow Him) bearing a cross is a burden, a weight that involves suffering and persecution. This is a tough example to follow because it means pain and suffering.
3. Serious and sober commitment. (Traditions and habits at times try to manufacture an emotional response. – Today's messages at times are filled with *Accept Him and live your best life now! Prosperity! Everything is going to be great!*) actually it is a weighty cost. Might better fill out the spreadsheet because this is a massive undertaking. You are going to be hit from all sides. It is game on! Don't enter lightly.
4. Surrender all. You have to renounce everything. I am not the owner! I give up all of my rights to Him. Ask, What types of things in your life are you quick to "snatch back" from God once you open hand it to Him?

What does this statement mean to you? *The idols of good are where most of us really struggle.*

What is a good in your life that you are sacrificing for the best thing?

When do you find yourself asking this question, *Do I trust the One Who is supreme?* And how do you answer this question when you ask it?

What about salt? As the flavor fades it becomes more like sand and dirt.

This is a pretty harsh, direct and truthful statement - When Jesus is not your all, we become useless disciples.

The cost of discipleship is high!

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.