

SALT Church

Luke 14:25-35

“Sand Over Salt”

April 5, 2026

David and Cindy (June 6-14)

I want to start out this morning by reading the complete text:

- Normally I would approach the text verse by verse as I teach, **but I want you to feel the full weight of what Jesus is saying.**
 - I also desire that you understand that this text **does not contain all of the objective facts of the gospel** but rather **it contains the subjective attitude of Jesus’ disciples.**
 - With that in mind
 - Let’s look at it together

Luke 14:25-35

*²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—**yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.** ²⁷ **And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.***

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able

to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

*³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, **those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.***

³⁴ "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

My 1st thoughts are:

What in the world Jesus?

- Do you just not like large groups?
 - Who builds a church like this?

You might be thinking:

- **What kind of Pastor** would choose such a text for an Easter Sunday?
 - You obviously haven't attended any "church growth" seminars pastor!

Here is what I know

- Easter, Mother’s Day, and Christmas are the most attended days for churches throughout America.
- **Like Jesus, I knew that I would be speaking to a large crowd.**
 - I am guessing that you are well versed in the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior.
 - For some of you, **this is the only sermon you will hear all year.**
 - For some of you this will be **the last sermon you ever hear.**
 - ***That weighs heavy on me.***
 - Because of that I am reminded of what Jesus said in John 8.

John 8:31-32

*³¹ ...Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and **the truth will set you free.**”*

I want you to be set free today

- I do not want you to hear “just another Easter sermon”
 - ***I want you to hear the voice of God***
 - I do not want you to leave here the same way that you came.

With that in mind, let’s pray!

Let's look at the text again.

- We must read this text with this in mind:
 - ***Jesus nor the Bible ever separates Christians from disciples.***
 - They are one and the same
 - In other words, a disciple is not a more devoted Christian.
 - ***A disciple is simply a Christian.***

Luke 14:25-35

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:

- Luke, under the power of the Holy Spirit wants us to know that people were seeking Jesus. (Lots of people)
- If you and I would have been there we would have been thrilled.
 - Jesus however doesn't seem thrilled. (Does He?)
 - Why?

Let's continue:

²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

(such a person cannot be a Christian)

- Why would Jesus say this?
 - Why would He use the word “hate?”
- Why now?
 - these poor people just started following Him.
- What's the point?
 - Who says stuff like this?

(side note)

- I have never seen that verse on a coffee cup or t-shirt!
- Which leads me to this thought:
 - ***Many of us do not know this Jesus***
 - This Jesus is different
 - **There is fire in His eyes**
 - And He is not playing games with our eternity!

This is not the 1st time Jesus has said something like this:

Matthew 10:34-36

34 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,

a daughter against her mother,

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

36 a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

Pastor, you need to be on medication!

- I’m not angry with you
 - But there is a simple truth you must understand if you are to receive the truth today
 - ***Half-hearted commitment to Jesus, is no commitment at all!***

Okay Pastor, I hear you, but does Jesus really want me to hate my parents, spouse, and my children?

No, Jesus does not want you to hate your parents, your spouse, your children, your siblings, or even your own life.

- **He wants all of you**
 - **And He deserves all of you**
 - **Because He gave all of Himself for you.**

What does He mean when He says “unless you hate...”

Matthew 10:37-39

³⁷“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Being a Christian, a child of the most high God, is a complete commitment.

- **There are no half-hearted Christians in Heaven**
- There are only Christians (disciples).
 - This is what Jesus is saying to us today.
 - This is an “all or nothing” proposition.
 - This is like being pregnant!
 - No one has ever been just a little bit pregnant.
 - You either are or you are not.

So, let's be very clear as to what Jesus is asking us to do and be.

- Jesus is calling us to follow Him without condition or reservation.
- He is calling us to abandon all our past priorities and put Him 1st in all things, thoughts, and actions.

Jesus continues:

²⁷And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

- ***What does that mean?***
- What do we know about crosses and Jesus' last week of His life?
 - Crosses are a symbol of Christianity now, ***but they used to be a symbol of death, torcher, and shame.***
 - With that in mind what do you think Jesus was trying to say?
- **When does a Christian pick up his cross?**
 - The day that he becomes a Christian
- **What happens when a Christian picks up his cross?**
 - They walk differently
 - There is a noticeable change in their lives.
 - And often it brings difficulty and pain.

What are you trying to say Pastor?

- It is not always easy.
- **The message of the cross is not** that you submit to Jesus and all your problems vanish.
 - The message of the cross is that you get Jesus!
 - And He is enough.

So, what does “carrying our cross daily” mean:

- It means that we must take an appraisal of the current powers or priorities over our life.
 - **In other words**, what is the most important thing in your life today?
 - **Carrying your cross everyday means**, living for the glory of God every day.
 - **That's deep Pastor!**

- **I know!**

I want you to hear the truth today!

- Here is some truth that most pastors will not tell you on an Easter Sunday.
 - **2 Timothy 3:12** *“¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*
 - That is what life is like when you chose to walk with Christ.

Picking up your cross and following Jesus is not going to be easy!

- **But the best things in your life have never come to you easily!**
 - This is what our Lord is saying to us this morning.
 - **If you want easy follow Satan** because that is what he is offering.
 - **You decide, you determine, you are the king or queen of your life not Jesus.**
 - If you want to be god of your own life you can.
 - **Reject Jesus**
 - **Reject the truth of God's Word.**
 - **Refuse to submit to Him and His word**

Jesus continues:

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower.

- That’s odd!
 - Who builds towers?
 - Kings and large landowners
 - Why?
 - Because they have a kingdom to protect

Won’t you first **sit down and estimate the cost** to see if you have enough money to complete it?

- Absolutely

²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

- Okay Jesus I understand what you are saying about constructing buildings but ***what does that have to do with following you?***

It means:

- **The way we invite people to follow Jesus isn’t the way Jesus did it.**
 - We must remember that there is a large crowd following Him.
 - Scholars estimate that there is more than a thousand people following Him when He says this.

So, how does Jesus invite them to follow Him?

How does Jesus give the invitation?

- There is no “with head bowed and every eye closed moment...”
- There is no “nobody is looking just raise your hand moment...”
- There is no “just come forward and say this prayer moment...”

No Jesus says:

- You can't love anyone or anything more than Me!
- You must be willing to give up all your hopes and dreams to follow me.
- You must be willing to look at everyday as an opportunity to bring glory to God the Father by following Him.
- You must accept that there will be a cost
 - In fact, it will cost you everything
 - And it will not be easy
 - But it will be totally worth it!
 - **So, Count the cost!**

That is how Jesus gives the invitation!

Jesus continues:

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

Couple of things:

- This king knows that he can't win and is outnumbered
- So, to keep from being completely destroyed he does what is logical, he pursues terms for peace.

What do you think would be the “terms of peace?”

- Complete and absolute surrender!
 - *Can you hear the voice of the Lord?*

33 In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

- Do you hear what He is saying?
 - *This is not a conditional surrender*
 - *This is a complete and unconditional surrender!*
- *This is not an emotional decision*
 - Although emotions are involved
 - This is thoughtfully and carefully considered
 - This is the most important decision of your life.
 - *It will cost you everything*
 - Because it cost Him everything

We must understand this absolute truth:

- Being a disciple of Christ (a Christian)
- Being a child of God:
 - Demands allegiance to Christ alone
 - especially in our present and future desires.

What I am trying to convey is this:

- **Faith is not simply believing facts about who the Bible says Jesus is.**
- Saving faith does believe what the Bible say about Jesus, but there must be fruit of that belief that shows up in everything that we do.

- It changes how we speak and what we say
- It changes how we treat people (both enemies and friends)
- It changes how we spend the time God has given us.
- It changes how we spend the money God has given us.
- It changes how we dress
- It changes what we put into our bodies and minds
- It changes what we watch, read, and listen too.
- It changes how we parent
- It changes how we love our spouses
 - It changes everything!!!

This change is eternal:

34 “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

- It is not lost on me that the name of this church is “Salt Church”
 - Jesus commands us to be the salt and light of this earth.
- It is not lost on me that salt is necessary for life to continue on this planet.
 - So, what is Jesus trying to convey when He says, “***Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?***”
 - ***He is saying that it is very dangerous to flirt with religion.***
 - Jesus is not offering religion (again to be bound up!)
 - **Jesus is offering salvation**
 - Forgiveness

- Grace and mercy
- He is offering a relationship with Him
 - The Father
 - And The Holy Spirit.
 - He is offering a new way of life
 - A new way of seeing
 - A new way of thinking
 - A new family
- **He is offering hope**

Religion does not offer that *at all*.

- Religion offers a fake salt that fades when difficulties come
 - It offers something that looks like salt, but it tastes like sand.
 - Religion offers no real hope
 - Jesus is offering real hope coupled with real truth.

(Back to Luke 14)

Jesus closes with these words

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

- There is a cost to following Jesus
 - Not everyone is willing to embrace true Christianity
 - Most will prefer ***“Sand Over Salt.”***

Now that you understand the subjective truth of being a disciple we close this morning with the objective truth about salvation

- **Here is that truth:**

Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-11

if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

Romans 10:13

¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Have you heard the voice of God today?

- Do you need prayer?
- Do you need help?
 - Come while we sing.