

Characteristic 1: Passionately Committed to Jesus - Luke 14:25-33

Suggested Memory Verse: Luke 14:27 “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

1. In Luke 14:26, Jesus says our love for Him must be so great that every other love looks small by comparison. What competes most for first place in your heart right now: family, comfort, approval, success, possessions, control, or something else? What would it look like this week to put Jesus first in a practical way?
2. Jesus says in Luke 14:28-33 to count the cost of following Him. When you think honestly about your own life, where do you feel the cost of discipleship the most right now? Is there an area where you have wanted the benefits of following Jesus without the surrender that comes with it?
3. One mark of being passionately committed to Jesus is that pleasing God takes precedence over pleasing people. How do you see that principle in Luke 14:26 and in Matthew 16:25? Where are you most tempted to keep people happy instead of obeying God?
4. Jesus says in Luke 14:27 that a disciple must bear his own cross. What do you think “bearing your cross” looks like in your everyday life right now? Where is Jesus calling you to obedience that feels costly, inconvenient, or uncomfortable?
5. The rich young ruler in Luke 18 and Abraham in Genesis 22 were both confronted with what mattered most to them. What is one thing you sense God may be putting His finger on in your life right now? What makes it hard to surrender that area to Him?
6. According to Romans 12:1-2, following Jesus means becoming a living sacrifice and refusing to be conformed to this world. In what part of your life do you see the strongest pull toward “ordinary” living instead of wholehearted devotion to Christ? What would transformation look like there?
7. Passionate commitment to Jesus makes life extraordinary, not because life gets easier, but because life is no longer centered on self. How do 1 Peter 2:9 and Matthew 28:18-20 reshape the way you think about your purpose, your relationships, and your everyday life this week?