

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP | LUKE 14:25-35 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 4/12/2026

*I. Supreme Allegiance Required (25-27) | II. Serious Assessment Necessary (28-30) | III. Steadfast Authenticity Expected

INTRO: We're living in a time where **Following Jesus** is often presented as Easy, Convenient, and Beneficial... but Rarely... Costly! Many are drawn to Jesus for what He can Give, but not for what He Demands. – In **Luke 14:25–35**, large crowds are following Him—but instead of making it **Easier**, Jesus makes it **Harder**. He turns to them and essentially says: *“If you're going to follow Me, you need to understand the Cost...”* Not to push people away—but to **expose who is Truly All In!** Because in the Kingdom of God, **half-hearted followers don't last**. – So, I've entitled this message: **THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP** *

I. SUPREME ALLEGIANCE REQUIRED (14:25-27) – **READ:** He had just taught that **Salvation is free and invites all to come (v.23)**, because God desires His house to be filled!

A. Requirements of Disciples: Jesus now teaches that **Discipleship will Cost you Everything!**

1. **A Disciple, {Grk. *Mathētēs*}** is someone who is a student, a learner of Jesus. (*Jesus calls us to follow*)
 - **Dietrich Bonhoeffer:** *“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”* (Obviously, this isn't a message on how to grow a church numerically—this is a message on how to follow Christ authentically).
2. In (v.25), *large multitudes are following Jesus*. – From the outside, it looks like revival, but **Jesus turns and confronts them**—not to **Grow the crowd, but to Purify it!** – He is not interested in **Fans...** He is calling **Followers!...** Not **Spectators...** but **Disciples!** – So, He challenges their motives. **WHY?** **Because not everyone who follows Jesus is truly surrendered to Him.** – (*What Jesus says NEXT is one of the most sobering passages in all of Scripture about the True Cost of the Kingdom*)...

B. Relational Priorities (26): *“If anyone comes to Me and does not HATE his father and mother... yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”* – Jesus uses strong language, but **“HATE,”** {Grk. *Miseō*} doesn't mean literal hostility against those we care about, but **Supreme Preference!** – *In context means to “Love Less.”* i.e., Your love for Christ must be so **Supreme** that every other love looks small in comparison.

- **The Statement** has caused many to walk away from Christ rather than follow Him! (*Expound Joey*)
- **“Even his own life also.”** – This speaks of **dying to self**, our Ambitions, Desires, Preferences, etc. (27)...

C. Radical Sacrifice (27): The second condition **Challenges Loyalty** and addresses their **Commitment!** – A follower of Jesus will go through many difficulties in life, so Jesus calls His disciples to **“Bear their Cross”** {Grk. *Bastazō*}. – This was not symbolic... it meant death! – Jesus is calling for **Total Surrender**, even unto suffering, (2 Tim 3:12) *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”*.

1. **Following Jesus will Cost you:** comfort, reputation, and possibly more—but **He is worth it!** – Augustine of Hippo said, *“Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all.”* So then...
2. **Following Jesus Requires Death to Self!** – **Discipleship begins where self-rule ends.** – (Gal 2:20b) *“...It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”* – If you cannot meet this requirement, then Jesus makes it clear... “you cannot be His disciple”.
 - C.H. Spurgeon said: *“If Christ is not all to you, He is nothing to you.”*

P/A – We often want: A **Savior** without **SURRENDER**... **Forgiveness** without **FORSAKING**... **Heaven** without **HOLINESS**. – But Jesus makes it clear: No CROSS... No DISCIPLESHIP! (*Supreme Allegiance is Required!*)
Ask yourself: Is Jesus first in my relationships?... Is He first in my decisions?... Is He first in my desires?

II. SERIOUS ASSESSMENT NECESSARY (14:28–32) – To illustrate the seriousness of... **The Cost Of Discipleship**, Jesus gives **TWO EXAMPLES** of what A FOLLOWER must consider...

A. Calculated Consideration of a BUILDER (28–30) – **READ:** In Israel, first-century landowners built stone Towers {Grk. *pyrgos*}, in their vineyards for standard agricultural use. They also served as watchtowers for guarding and provided temporary housing for laborers during the harvest season.

1. **Construction of a Tower** was a public display of Wealth and Competence.
2. **Consideration:** The builder **Takes Inventory** before laying a foundation! – *No wise man starts building without calculating the cost*—otherwise, *he begins and cannot finish!*
 - **Leaving a Tower unfinished was not just a Financial Failure;** it was a **Permanent Monument to the owner's lack of foresight**, leading to community-wide ridicule.
 - **Learn the Lesson:** Jesus uses this to show that **A "Half-Built" Disciple** also becomes a source of mockery for the faith.

P/A – Many people start strong emotionally, make quick commitments, but never endure to the end! Christianity is not an impulsive decision—it is a **lifelong devotion!** – True disciples **Think deeply and Commit fully**. – (Jam 1:22) *“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

B. Consequential Conflict of a KING (31–32) – **READ:** *Now Jesus shifts to a king preparing for war. He has two options: 1) Assess the capabilities of his own army to Win (31), or 2) Stand down! (32)* – If a king realizes he cannot win against a superior force, he Must Seek Peace. – **In a spiritual sense** when facing the absolute authority of God's Kingdom, the only "Win" is **Total Surrender**, rather than trying to negotiate terms with a divided heart.

- **Discipleship involves Spiritual Warfare**—it's not casual... **THINK BEFORE YOU START!**
- **Decide:** If you choose to **“Fight Against”** Jesus the King, using *insufficient resources* you will lose!

P/A – The Cost of Discipleship requires **Serious Assessment!** Discipleship requires **Total Surrender... Not just Partial Obedience!** – A.W. Tozer: *“Salvation apart from obedience is unknown in the sacred Scriptures.”*

Jesus makes His point clear in His next statement...

C. Complete Commitment of the WHOSOEVER (33) – **READ:** *“To Forsake All”* {Grk. *Apotassomai*} i.e., to **“Renounce.”** This term literally means “to say goodbye to” or “to bid farewell”. – **In the context of discipleship**, it refers to a Formal Renunciation or Relinquishing of Ownership.

1. A disciple must **“bid farewell”** to the Claim of Ownership over their possessions, recognizing that everything now belongs to the Master. (*Serious Assessment is therefore Necessary!*)
2. **Nothing you have belongs to you anymore—it's all His.** Your time, resources, future! – Paul communicates this in, (Phil 3:8) *“I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ.”*

P/A – As a Disciple... Have you Truly Forsaken All Things? – **Jesus is not asking for:** Weekly attendance, Occasional service, or Religious affiliation. **He is Demanding: YOU!** Which includes Your possessions... Your plans... Your priorities... Your very life! – The issue is **Not Ownership... it's LORDSHIP!** – **WHY?** *Because Jesus Paid it all... All to Him I owe, sin has left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow!* –

- **Don't follow Jesus impulsively**—follow Him **intentionally**, knowing He is worth everything you give up! *“The dearest idol I have known... help me to tear it from Thy throne!”* — C.H. Spurgeon

Jesus shares a third parable to highlight the importance of...

III. STEADFAST AUTHENTICITY EXPECTED (14:34–35) – **READ:** His illustration shows that a disciple, like salt, must remain effective and distinct, or risk becoming useless. *He describes “It’s”...*

A. Distinctive Influence (34a): “Salt is Good...” In the ancient world, SALT was an indispensable commodity used for seasoning, preserving food, and even a form of currency. – The “Salt” of that region (*often gathered from the Dead Sea*) was not Pure Sodium Chloride; it was a mixture of minerals.

1. By stating “salt is good,” Jesus identifies the high value and essential function of His disciples.
2. Earlier in His ministry Jesus told his disciples, “**You are the salt of the earth...**” (Matt 5:13), informing His disciples that **they were to impact the world**. – His disciples are meant to act as a “preservative” in a world that is falling apart and to bring the “flavor” of God’s Kingdom to the earth.
 - True disciples are to Stand Out! – And when they do... **Salt is good!** – **The decaying world is effected and influenced by the saltiness of each disciple!** – **Bringing Purification and Preservation...** causing many to Thirst for that which is Pure and True!

P/A – Are you a Salty Christian? – Because *when Salt Loses its flavor, there is a...*

B. Diminished Effectiveness (34b-35a): “unless it has lost its flavor” – The conditional word “if” suggests that Salt can lose its flavor, and when it does, **Jesus says it becomes useless!**

1. Jesus is speaking of a **COMPROMISED DISCIPLE** who loses their distinctive holiness by engaging in worldliness, (cf. Luke 8:14; *choked out*). – Such become **Bland, Ineffective, and Useless!**
 - Much like the old adage which says, “*he isn't worth his salt,*” so a disciple's worth is determined by how they differentiate themselves from the outside world.
2. Jesus says such, “*...is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out.*” – **What a sad position to be in!**

P/A – The passage is not about losing salvation, but losing effectiveness, credibility, and flavor. – **Its a call to maintain strong, distinct biblical convictions and a lifestyle that stands out from the world!**

C. Decisive Exhortation (35b): Jesus concludes His exhortation with a challenge... “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” – This is a call to respond, not just listen. – Jesus isn’t asking for admiration... **He’s demanding action!** – **So let me bring this to a close with these Practical Questions:**

- Is there a Relationship in your life that is competing with Christ?
- Is there a Cross you’ve refused to carry?
- Is there a Cost you’ve ignored?
- Is there Something you won’t surrender?
- Most Important: **Has your life lost its spiritual impact?**

LISTEN – this is not about perfection! This is about direction and surrender. Jesus is not asking for part of your life. He is not negotiating terms. **He is calling you to die—so you can truly live**. – This is **THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP!** – “*Many want the crown, but few want the cross.*” – **Dwight L. Moody**

FINAL THOUGHT: Stay sharp... Stay surrendered... Stay useful. **Don’t become a disciple in name only!**