



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Luke, Part 42: The Cost - Luke 14:25-35 - September 7, 2025 - FBC Panhandle

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Church Camp as a well-executed ploy... "Every head bowed, every eye closed"
What happens when **decisions** > **discipleship** in the church?

Big Question: What Will It Cost To Follow Jesus?

1. More Than You Think! (Luke 14:25-26)

"Great crowds" (v. 25) are told they "...cannot be my disciple" three times! (v. 26, 27, 33)

μισέω (*miseō*) - "to hate", used ~38 times in New Testament. It is an accurate translation.
"A comparative degree of preferential affection."

Illustration: Moravians, "May the Lamb who was slain receive the reward for his suffering."

Do you love Jesus more than your family? An incredibly hard question to answer!

Parents & Grandparents - your kids will never be more committed to the church than what you model for them.

2. More Than You Think! (Luke 14:27)

Unfortunately, "carrying your cross" has become somewhat of a euphemism that robs it of its true meaning - humiliation & death.

v. 26-27 must be a divinity claim, because only God can require that would love him more than our family and be willing to lay down our lives for his leadership.

True Christians are "these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes." (Rev. 14:4)

3. More Than You Think! (Luke 14:28-30)

What about the entire Christian life between justification and resurrection? That's called sanctification and no one wants to think about that.

Jesus tells us twice to "*sit down*" and truly consider the cost of following him. (v. 28, 31)

"Those who refuse Christ as Lord do not get to use him as Savior." - John MacArthur

Worst part of long-term pastorate in a small town? Regularly seeing the people who've quit.

Illustrations: Wedding v. Marriage, Enlistment v. Deployment

4. More Than You Think! (Luke 14:31-33)

Sadly, when the cost is too high, people bail out.

The idea of "renouncing all that he has" (v. 33), is a bar far too high for many to reckon with.

Related Question: What Are Those Who Won't Pay?

5. Worthless! (Luke 14:34-35)

Without pure NaCl, salt in the 1st century was a mixture of minerals usually gathered from around a body of salt water. The NaCl would leach out over time and the remaining minerals were unfit for purpose.

Salvation costs nothing, but discipleship costs everything - and those unwilling to pay have no value to the Kingdom of God.

The cost may be higher than you wanted to pay, but for those who do pay - life begins to have true meaning and your influence has a major impact on the people around you.

The people who have had the greatest impact on my life were people who were clearly sold out as Christians in this world. Christ was the center of everything they did.

When your time on earth is up - what difference will your Christian life have made for the Kingdom of God?

How you follow Jesus - what its worth to you - will determine the outcomes and impacts of your life and will prove the veracity of your faith claims.



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between a decision and a disciple?
2. If salvation is truly as simple as placing your faith in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, why is Jesus setting such a high bar in this text?
3. What does Jesus mean by "hating" our families and ourselves? Is this possible?
4. What is your "cross to bear"? Is it truly a laying down of your life for the sake of the Kingdom of God?
5. Re-read the John MacArthur quote above - what does that mean?
6. Can someone have "value" on the basis of God's Image, and yet still be worthless to the Kingdom of God?
7. What is the cost of discipleship? Is that a cost you are willing to pay?