

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"NO SMALL PRINT" | LUKE 14: 25-35 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

Who comes to mind when you hear "diehard fan." Why?

"Love Jesus Supremely" (Luke 14: 25-26)

Jesus says people must love Him more than anyone else to follow Him. **How do people respond to this message today? Why?**

"Follow Jesus Sacrificially" (Luke 14: 27-33)

Jesus tells the people that to follow him involves sacrifice and uses the analogies of carrying a cross, building a tower, and going to war. **What are the costs to following Jesus that are surprisingly hard?**

"Follow Jesus Consistently" (Luke 14: 34-35)

Jesus uses the analogy of salt to explain that true disciples are consistent, maintaining their character. **What has personally helped you be more consistent in following Jesus?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In this passage we hear Jesus giving a challenge that basically asks people to check their heart and count the cost. He wants followers who are all in. **Have you thought about what God is asking you to let go of? What to hold onto? Would others say you love Jesus more than anyone or anything? Pray and ask God to give you the strength to love Him consistently and sacrificially.**

No Small Print

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Lar: Month of Giving. Thanksgiving Eve. Women's Xmas Celebration.
- B. Slide5 Today is Orphan Sun: the recognition of this day started in a Church in Zambia and has grown to over 50 countries. Orphan Sunday raises awareness of the plight of the world's **153 million orphans** [together they constitute the "*Orphan Nation*," the world's 10th largest country]. *Let's honor the many caregivers who assist with the care of these children :)*
- C. Slide6 Fostering a Hope Community: The group is a **foster AND adoption support group**. Here at CM we meet monthly to gather together and allow time to *learn, grow, and support one another* in the wonderful and life-changing commitment to **foster, adopt, or** be part of our **Safe Families for Children Program**. **We are meeting this Wed, Nov.16th at 7pm**. We will be discussing *the development of children with trauma*. Please see my wife **Kelly** if you have any questions.
- D. Slide7 We also honor on this **Veterans Day Weekend**, all the men & women who **have served, or are presently** serving, in our armed services.
- E. Slide8 **Prop 1** is a *CA constitutional amendment* that enshrines *a constitutional right to kill a baby until it is born*, w/in the state of CA.
1. ***It extends the right to abortion far beyond** what Roe v Wade did, which it purports to replace. [Roe v Wade and the United States Supreme Court cases that followed **held** there was a right to an abortion **until viability of the baby**]. There is no question that Prop 1 **gruesomely expands** that right **and** enshrines it in our State Constitution.
 2. **But** many states also passed laws that restrict abortion. **9 states in total** so there is reason to **celebrate** from a *National* perspective.
 3. **What we need to be doing**: educating people. Even in California there is not overwhelming support for abortion when the baby can live outside the womb, **and** yet Prop 1 passed. **It will be on the ballot again, and we need to educate others in the meantime.**

F. Prayer: *Don't come with a **thimble**, when God has nothing less to give you than **the ocean of Himself**.* B. Manning, *The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus*, pg.208

II. Slide9 Intro: *No Small Print*

- A. When it comes to **sports**, there are **bandwagon fans** and **diehard fans**.
1. **Bandwagon fans** are fans who have shown no past loyalty to a team, who only support them when they are doing well.
 2. **Diehard fans** watch, listen or read about every game, know every player, & know stats. Are willing to stand in long lines, sit in the freezing cold, and are quick to say, *we'll get em next year*.
- B. There is a big difference of **being a fan of Jesus** and **being a disciple Jesus**.
1. There are many people who are **a fan of Jesus**. Maybe they like *his style of teaching, his Justice, his ethics, or his stories*.
 2. **Some** try to serve Jesus without following Him, **others** try to follow him without serving him.
- C. Maybe **you** are at a crossroads in your life, **or** maybe **you're drifting away** from the faith ... you need to hear these words this morning.
1. 1 of the themes of this passage is to **think it through**. **Count the cost & follow Jesus**. "*Sit down and think*" whether you should build a tower, **or** whether you should go to war with that army that's bigger than yours.
 2. 3 times he will use the word **cannot**, *you cannot be my disciple if ...*
- D. Which give us our outline: 3 marks of a true disciple, *A true disciple loves Jesus **Supremely**, follows Jesus **Sacrificially**, and follows Jesus **Consistently**.*

III. Slide10 **LOVE JESUS SUPREMEPLY (25,26) READ**

- A. (25) Jesus is **thinning out the herd**. He did it in John 6.
1. Many left after his difficult teaching and He asked the disciples if they wanted to leave also.
- B. **People in the crowd** are there for a number of reasons:

1. Some out of **curiosity**. Others, waiting to see more **miracles**. Some to see if Jesus was going to be the **political Messiah** come to take over Rome. Some probably just **brought along** by others.
 2. Jesus wants them to know *what it is to be all in*.
- C. With the Bible, there is no fine print. The Bible is upfront with requirements, expectations, commands.
1. **We often don't read the fine print**. Like App's you download (I have read and agree to the terms and conditions that apply). **As Christians, we don't like to lie, but we also don't want to take an hour to read through the 30 pages of an agreement**. So we click the button.
 - a) **But the Bible has no small print. The Bible has no box to check**.
 2. **Jesus** tells them upfront what it is to be 1 of His followers.
 3. **Jesus** doesn't just want you to be **in the crowd, but in Him**.
- D. **Slide11** (26) **Hate** - startling.
1. Always read a text of scripture *in the light of all scripture*. His word is holy, **but it is also harmonious**.
 2. Certainly **marriage and family** are God's idea **and** Jesus wouldn't deny that. **Nor** would Jesus give us license to break the 5th commandment, *honoring our father and mother*.
 3. It's also preposterous to think that Jesus, who taught us to love our neighbor, and even love our enemies, *would now tell us to hate our own family?*
 4. This is a case of **Semitic exaggeration** that Jesus was fond of. He used a lot of **shocking hyperbole**. He would use **Hebrew idioms**, figures of speech, to express certain things.
 - a) **So**, instead of saying to *love someone less*, you would say to **hate them**.
(Gen.29:30 when it says, *Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah*, **then** next vs.

*When the Lord saw that Leah was hated. Also in Mt.10:37 says it that way, anyone who **loves** his father or mother, **more than me**, is not worthy of me.*

5. So Jesus isn't inciting us to hate, this is not hate speech. Jesus is simply calling us to *put Him first*. Love Him *above anyone else*. Love Him supremely.
6. And even his own life - not to hate our own life *in a destructive manner*.
7. But sometimes there will be conflict in your family or extended family because of your *love for Jesus*. A calling to the mission field, etc.
8. In dating relationships be careful: Often you can find yourself falling in love with, or being drawn towards someone who *does not love Jesus Christ*. And you can feel yourself being pulled away from your love of Jesus. Make sure you don't *put your loves out of order*, in choosing a dating relationship. Because if *your loves* are out of order, *your life* is out of order. **Jesus above all relationships!**

E. Jesus comes *before family, before livelihood, before security, and before any other identity*.

1. B4 a relationship w/Jesus, *whatever was 1st is now a very distant 2nd*.

F. Transition statement: *If you love Jesus supremely, you'll make sacrifices for him gladly!*

IV. Slide12 FOLLOW JESUS SACRIFICIALLY (27-33) READ

A. Cross carrying. 1st said used in Lk.9.

B. Hear this in the 1st century mindset. Cross carrying was serious business.

1. If you saw someone carrying a horizontal beam, you knew they were not coming back. This was a 1 way trip. They would not only be executed, but in the most shameful and gruesome way.

C. This does not mean every follower would become a martyr. Luke earlier said that we take up the cross "*daily*" so there's a *daily dying*.

1. Simply put, *it's putting to death those things that keep you from following Jesus. Or those things that are trying to **replace superior love for Jesus**. Like idols, besetting sin, selfish ambition.*
- D. (27) *Come after me/follow me - Are you going to follow **another** rabbi? Maybe Rabbi Pleasure. Rabbi Success? Comfort? American Dream? *What do you think serving that is like? No repercussions?**
- E. We might lean towards thinking this is about *God taking away things from us*, but actually He wants to **reveal the true you** in this process.
- F. (28-32) *Next, he talks about thinking through the cost (tower & war).*
- G. *Don't rush enthusiastically into this relationship w/Jesus, unless you **know what that involves**. A half built tower is **not a tower**, and a half built disciple is **not a disciple**. **And** in war, have forethought.*
1. Like entering into marriage. The Book of common prayer says, "*Marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly but deliberately.*"
 2. *Should't it be **equally or even more important** w/your marriage to **Christ**?*
- H. (33) *Be willing to renounce possessions -*
- I. Jesus *could* call you to this radical lifestyle, renouncing all that you have.
1. **But** Luke was wealthy. Some of the women that followed Jesus were **wealthy**. **But** like *the rich young ruler*, Jesus did ask it of him. **And we should all be willing to do that if asked** (emphasis on *if asked*).
- J. *Keep in mind* everything we own was given to us, it is on loan to us, we are just stewards of His resources. **And** we must allow the Master to use them as He wills.
- K. This is also a reminder that, "*Jesus didn't come to do a little **makeover**, Jesus came to **take over**.*" [I want all of you. *Not* Christianity Lite. Be the real deal]
- L. Know this, in *Following Jesus Sacrificially* ... we make *sacrifices* for people that we love all the time!

1. A mother losing sleep for her newborn. Parents sacrificing a lot of money for private school for their children or setting aside for college funds.
2. Diehard football fans will sit in the stadium during *freezing cold weather*, they love their team, that's *barely a sacrifice* for them.

M. Transition statement: *If you love Jesus supremely, you'll make sacrifices for him gladly, and follow Him Consistently!*

V. Slide13a FOLLOW JESUS CONSISTENTLY (34,35) READ

A. (34,35) Actually starts with *So* or *therefore* (in Gk).

B. Salt was used to *preserve* or *for flavor* (here flavor).

C. *Stay Salty* (not language). *I love this church I can hate my brother and use Salty language, no!*

1. Use your inner ears, and hear what I'm saying. if you're hearing what I'm saying, then follow me. *Be distinct, maintain the character of a disciple.*

D. Why should we do this? Why count the cost & say yes to following Jesus? (well I could say how about for: the peace that passes all understanding, the forgiveness of sins, no condemnation, fellowship with his people, the indwelling Holy Spirit).

1. *13b For the pure joy of knowing Christ now and for all eternity. You get Jesus! There is nothing greater to acquire. This will not be easy, Christianity is hard, but I will be with you.*
2. *13c For the Purpose you receive now.* Our lives have significant meaning. We see it in the analogy of salt. You are the salt of the Earth! *We display the character of Christ before the world.* [Even if you don't like what you do for work, *you are the salt of the earth!* Even if you don't like your 1st period class in school, *you are the salt of the Earth!*]
3. *13d For the Blessing, you will receive in Eternity.* We just need to get through this. *The best is yet to come for the Jesus followers. We sacrifice now, reward later. We sacrifice now, we see Jesus later. We sacrifice now, we feast later.*

E. **End:**

F. What was the response of the big crowd? Look at the results of who draws near! 15:1

G. Jesus doesn't preach an easy gospel.

1. Not just *add a tsp of Jesus to your life* and everything will be better.
2. **No**, people want something **Big** to live for. People want something **important, significant, vital** to live for. People are willing to **sacrifice** for something they believe in.

H. Jesus isn't asking, are you a churchgoer? A good person? Or did you once made a quick verbal fire insurance response to an alter call?

1. **Practically?** Find someone to go deep with. *Not, I would like to disciple you. You have been granted to sit under my tutelage ... congratulations!*
2. Instead, realize we all have things to learn from each other. **One will be further along than the other, but** watch what God can do.
3. **Real real practical.** Get together, pick any bible passage, and do **DBS** (Discovery Bible Study) for any amount of time **and ask 3 questions:** *What do we learned about **God**? What do we learned about **Man**? How do I **practically obey this in the coming week?*** (did w/Ps.23 women's BS)

I. **Questions to ask yourself.** What does God **love** that I'm tempted to hate? What does God **hate** that I'm tempted to love? What does God want me to let go of, that I'm tempted to hold onto? What does God want me to hold onto that I want to let go of?

J. Keywords: Disciple, cross, salt.