

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

*A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God*

## **Radical Commitment**

**Luke 14: 25-35**

As Jesus turns to the crowds who are seeking to follow Him, He speaks to them about the cost of discipleship . . . what it means to really be His follower. This is a very important teaching for us to consider, for following Jesus is not a casual affair, it is an all out commitment.

### **I. The Terms of Becoming a Disciple**

- A. Jesus is more important than any family, even one's spouse and children.
- B. Jesus is more important than one's own life, which includes:
  - 1. Wishes and desires
  - 2. Goals and ambitions
  - 3. Even physical life itself
- C. Following Jesus includes a cross, and crosses serve but one purpose: to die

### **II. The Consequence of Failing to Count the Cost**

- A. The unfinished tower
- B. The foolish king and the lost battle
- C. Emotional decisions and hasty commitments result in catastrophe
- D. The cost of discipleship includes surrender of all of one's possessions

### **III. Sand or Salt, What Are You?**

- A. Salt which has lost its usefulness is useless
- B. Is discipleship an option? A second tier of salvation & eternal life?
- C. Consider the wealthy ruler who wanted to have eternal life
- D. Spiritual, carnal, and lost—where do you fall?

### **IV. He Who Has Ears to Hear, Let Him Hear**

Have you heard this lesson? Have you taken it seriously? Have you counted the cost of following Jesus?

Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**Luke 14: 25-35 NASB**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Explain why discipleship is, or is not, an optional accessory to salvation.
2. What makes this lesson difficult to understand in our American culture?
3. In what parts of the world is the cost of following Jesus more obvious?
4. What does Jesus mean by counting the cost? What are you to consider?
5. In what ways will a would-be follower of Jesus look foolish if he/she decides to turn back? Can you think of someone in the Gospels who did so? How about someone in the missionary expansion of the church?
6. If you consider the cost and make a decision to follow Jesus, how can you be sure you will see it through to the end? What is the deciding factor?

### NOTES

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God. You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols. Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you. But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead. That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit. The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

**1 Peter 4: 1-11 NLT**