

Sermon: The Cost of Discipleship.
Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.

Scripture: Luke 14:25-35.
Date: May 4, 2025

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Jesus is presenting himself as the one who must be the dearest thing to us in the world. What (besides Jesus) is dearest to you in the world (family, friends, wealth, career, etc.)?
- b) Jesus tells us to count the cost of discipleship. Do you believe that you have counted the cost of following Christ, or, to ask it another way, has following Christ cost you anything?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) In what ways does loving God above all else actually allow us to enjoy all else, whereas loving something more than God can actually cause us to be destroyed by it? What examples of this spiritual truth from your own life can you think of?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) V. 27. Jesus tells us that we must bear our own cross. What do you think this means for the daily life of a Christian disciple?
- b) Read Romans 6:5-6, Colossians 3:3, and Galatians 2:20. How does this amazing truth of our union with the death of Christ help us to actualize taking up our cross and following Jesus?
- c) To take up our cross and follow Christ we must be convinced that what we will gain will be far greater than what we will lose. Look at Hebrews 12:1-2 together. How is this idea true for Jesus as he went to the cross? In what way do you see the reward of following Christ as greater than the cost of following Christ?

APPLICATION

- a) Read Philippians 3:7-10 together. What in your life right now feels like a loss but might actually be a way to sacrifice like Jesus and gain knowing him more?

PRAYER

- Praise God for being honest with us about the cost of following Jesus.
- Confess things that you have failed to count the cost of following Christ.
- Thank Jesus for being worth the cost.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to know Christ and become like him in his death.