

## **Disciples of Jesus** Luke 14:25-35

### **Introduction:**

In Luke 14, “large crowds were going along with Jesus.”

After emphasizing the presence of God’s kingdom and the need to respond to its coming in the parable of the great banquet (Luke 14:15-24), Jesus described the conditions for participation at the great banquet or membership in God’s kingdom (vv. 25-35).

Jesus has been on his way to Jerusalem since Luke 9:51, because “the days were approaching for His ascension.”

The last mention of this trip came in Luke 13:22 as “He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.”

As the crowds grew, Jesus revealed that disciples must place their relationship with Jesus above all family relationships and even above the would-be disciple’s own life (v. 26).

A true disciple will carry his or her own cross and follow Jesus (v. 27).

Another mark of a real disciple of Jesus is to “give up all his [or her] own possessions” (v. 33).

Are you “going along with” Jesus, a student of Jesus, or a disciple of Jesus?

### **I. Go along with Jesus.**

The people who are “going along with [Jesus]” are following Him to hear what he has to say.

When Jesus turns to them, they give him their attention, they listen to what he says (Luke 14:26 and 27).

“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.”

People who are just “going along with [Jesus],” leave when they hear the cost or consider the cost but conclude it is too high a price to pay.

Those who leave upon hearing the cost say things like: “Hate? How can I hate my parents? How can I hate my spouse? How can I hate my children? How can I hate my siblings? How could I ever hate myself?”

If they stick around and consider the cost, they may say things like: “My parents are good to me, I could never go against them. My spouse is my soulmate; how much closer can two people get? My kids are as good as Cheesecake or as good as gold; I could never overlook them. Me and my brother or sister are like this (motion with close/tight nit gesture), nothing and no one will come between us. I do love myself. Is it possible to love Jesus and hate the people I already love?”

If the people “going along with [Jesus]” do consider the cost, they may not be willing to pay it, so they say things like: “I cannot believe a loving God uses such strong language. Why would he require something of us that we are not capable of doing?”

Candidates for discipleship “go along with [Jesus]” just like the crowds.

### **II. Learn Jesus.**

Candidates for discipleship do more than go along with Jesus; they learn Jesus.

They listen to what he says and consider it thoroughly.

Look at Genesis 29:30 and 31; “So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and indeed he **loved Rachel more than Leah**, and he served with Laban for another seven years. 31 Now the LORD saw that **Leah was unloved** (a term meaning disliked intensely, scorned, hated), and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.”

The Semitic idiom rendered “love one and hate another” describes loving one person more than another.

Luke’s word-for-word translation of Jesus’ words are hard to accept, hard to consider; Matthew’s thought-for-thought translation in Matthew 10:37 reveals that Jesus demands his disciples love and obey him more than anyone else, over family and even over one’s own self.

A person’s commitment to give primary allegiance to Jesus is further described by the illustration of one carrying his own cross to follow Jesus, a commitment even to death.

Candidates for discipleship go along with Jesus but do so much more.

Candidates for discipleship learn what the teachings of Jesus mean and what it really means to commit to Him.

Consider Luke 14:28-32, “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.”

People who want to do more than just go along with Jesus, must count the cost.

They need to give serious and sober reflection on this commitment.

Commitment to Jesus is not a hasty, emotional decision.

Commitment to Jesus, is instead, well thought out and rational.

This approach to commitment is the only one that will result in perseverance.

People who are students of Jesus hear the cost—love Jesus more than your family and yourself.

People who are students of Jesus consider the cost—am I willing to obey Jesus above everyone else I am close to, do I have what it takes to finish, am I strong enough to face the enemy, make difficult decisions in light of my commitment, and do what is needed to keep my commitment?

Students of Jesus learn Jesus, disciples do so much more.

### **III. Practice Jesus**

Consider Luke 14:33.

People, who are students of Jesus count the cost—what if I surrender everything to Jesus?

No one who follows Jesus to practice him is left wanting.

Jesus was content to do the father’s will and a disciple of Jesus is content with doing God’s will leaving behind everything else.

Only a disciple of Jesus goes along with Jesus, learns Jesus, and practices Jesus.

Notice Luke 14:34 and 35, “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.”

Do you know what the difference is between a student and a disciple?

A student learns from a teacher by studying.

A student studies a teacher’s technique.

The places the teacher goes.

The things the teacher does.

The words the teacher speaks.

A student may observe, take notes, or even ask questions.

A disciple learns from a teacher by studying just like a student, but additionally, a disciple practices what he/she has learned from the teacher.

We cannot be a disciple of Jesus without loving him more than family ties (v. 26).

We cannot be a disciple of Jesus without committing to follow him even unto death (v. 27).

We cannot be a disciple of Jesus without surrendering our possessions (v. 33).

Practicing these things is what makes one a disciple of Jesus.

Disciples of Jesus must continue to be the “salt of the earth” as Matthew 5:13 puts it.

They must continue to practice what they have been taught.

If these characteristics of discipleship fade away, then the person becomes like useless salt.

People who are disciples of Jesus, practice Jesus.

John 13:35 reads, “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jesus said in John 15:8, “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 and 20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Candidates for discipleship go along with Jesus because they love Jesus most of all; they carry their own cross as they learn Jesus; and they give everything to God as they practice Jesus.

### **Application:**

Jesus concluded with these words in Luke 14:35, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

People who just go along with Jesus hear difficult things to understand, difficult things to carry out, and they leave from following Him.

People who just learn Jesus hear what Jesus meant, may draw close to him, but may still turn away from following him.

People who practice Jesus hear what he meant, learn how to live it, and practice being Jesus; this is the core of every mission effort.

Who do you love the most?

Is it a parent, spouse, child, sibling, or yourself?

Will you love Jesus more?

Are you carrying your own cross, committed to Christ even if it means death?

Have you given up all your possessions, offering them for God's use?

A person "going along with" Jesus hears the conditions that must be met to be a disciple of Jesus, can tell you what Jesus taught, but will probably choose to do nothing about it.

A person who is a student of Jesus listens to him and learns what Jesus meant by the requirements for discipleship; a student can tell you what Jesus requires, yet the student may not commit to following Jesus.

A person who is a true disciple goes along with Jesus, listens to him, learns what Jesus means by his requirements, learns how to meet them, and meets the requirements for discipleship by practicing them.

**Conclusion:**

As a candidate for discipleship, everyone is, are you "going along with [Jesus], a student of Jesus, or a disciple of Jesus?

If you are anything but a disciple, then come to Jesus (Luke 14:26); listen to him teach; believe what he says (John 5:24), and be ready to make him your primary concern in life.

Repent of your sins and confess belief in Jesus (John 8:24), taking up your cross to follow him (Luke 9:23).

Surrender all your possessions to him starting with your own life (2 Corinthians 8:5; Romans 12:16).

Then, you will be a disciple of Jesus!

Acts 11:26 says, "...and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

These are to be salt of the world; men and women practicing Jesus.

If you are a disciple of Jesus, how are you doing in practicing Jesus?