

## The High Cost of Discipleship

Luke 14:25 - 35

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
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Overview: Greater context: grace and the high cost of discipleship

- **Luke 14:15-24** Incredible grace for the outcasts of Israel and outsiders (banquet)
- **Luke 14:25-35** The high cost of discipleship
- **Luke 15:1-7** Grace for repentant sinners (parable of the lost sheep)
- **Luke 15:8-10** Grace shown by joy in heaven when a sinner repents (lost coin)
- **Luke 15:8-32** Prodigal Son finds grace

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
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### A return to the travel motif

- **Luke 14:25a**  
Now large crowds were going along with Him;
- **Luke 9:51**  
When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem;

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Discipleship is more important than all else in life

■ **Luke 14:25b, 26**

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."

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Earlier in the travel narrative the same call was made

■ **Luke 9:61, 62**

Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

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The disciple is like one condemned to die

■ **Luke 14:27**

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

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### Prospective disciples must count the cost

■ **Luke 14:28**

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?

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### Public ridicule

■ **Luke 14:29, 30**

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."

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### Normal resources will be inadequate

■ **Luke 14:31, 32**

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.

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Disciples who journey with Jesus “bid farewell” to their possessions

■ **Luke 14:33**

So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

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Disciples tied to possessions, family, and who reject the cross are useless

■ **Luke 14:34, 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.

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Theme in Luke: the need for authentic hearing

■ **Luke 9:44**

Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.

■ **Luke 8:8b**

As He said these things, He would call out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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### Implications and Applications

- 1) The Christian's relationship with Christ must take priority over everything else
- 2) Understand the master/disciple relationship
- 3) The terms of discipleship are terms of salvation but do not cause salvation
- 4) Ironically, all true Christians have questions about their own level of devotion

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- 1) The Christian's relationship with Christ must take priority over everything else

#### ■ **Philippians 3:8**

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,

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- 2) Understand the master/disciple relationship

#### ■ **Luke 5:27, 28**

And after that He went out, and noticed a tax-gatherer named Levi, sitting in the tax office, and He said to him, "Follow Me." And he left everything behind, and rose and began to follow Him.

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2) Understand the master/disciple relationship

■ **Luke 17:7**

But which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, "Come immediately and sit down to eat"?

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2) Understand the master/disciple relationship

■ **Luke 17:8, 9**

But will he not say to him, "Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me until I have eaten and drunk; and afterward you will eat and drink"? He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?

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2) Understand the master/disciple relationship

■ **Luke 17:10**

So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, "We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done."

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3) The terms of discipleship are terms of salvation but do not cause salvation

■ **Ephesians 2:8, 9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

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4) Ironically, all true Christians have questions about their own level of devotion

■ **2Corinthians 12:9**

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

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