



Discipleship Bible Study

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Declaration: I Choose Jesus – Lord, Build Your House! Part 4

Focus Text:

Matthew 7:24-27 NLT *“²⁴ Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”*

Luke 14:25-33 NLT *“²⁵ A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶ “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, “There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!” ³¹ “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³² And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.”*

Exhortation: The Cost of Discipleship

**The Following references will be taken from the Amplified Version of Scripture.*

Matthew 19:27-29 - Mark 10:17-31

As we continue to sit at the feet of Christ and gather around the profound and weighty teachings of our Lord, we must take intentional time to reflect not only on the responsibility we have but also on the blessedness of the call and all that Jesus extends to each of us. Yes, Discipleship demands a heartfelt consistent commitment and at the same time, it leads us to an immeasurable treasure, that makes the whole journey worth the sacrifice. Jesus does not shy away from the challenging truth when He teaches the requirements of following Him. In Luke 14:26-33, He articulates the essence of what it means to be His disciple and in verse 27, articulates this point: “Whoever does not carry his own cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow after Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] cannot be My disciple.”

To take up your cross means to willingly embrace the journey, being fully aware that it may lead us to places of discomfort, loss, or conflict with those we hold dear, especially if our loved ones choose not to follow Jesus as true disciples. Jesus illuminates through His parables that true disciples must count the cost (evaluate), much like a builder assessing the resources required to complete a project or a king weighing his chances in battle. This thoughtful, intentional and concentrated consideration prompts us to ask ourselves the question: Am I truly ready to embrace what it means to fully follow Him? Don't let that question intimidate you, let it encourage you, this is the most important relationship you will ever have, and rejoice because you recognize it!

Surely as we count the cost, we must factor in and remember the immense blessings we receive in return. Jesus assures us of the reward awaiting those who choose to follow Him entirely. Matthew 19:29 reassures us: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life." In cross reference it is also recorded in Mark's gospel, chapter 10:29-30, the Lord says, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, there is no one who has given up a house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, who will not receive a hundred times as much now in the present age—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms—along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life."

Family, this is the blessed hope and joy of discipleship! Yes, we may give up and detach from worldly attachments for Christ, but that means we have opened our hearts to a greater family within the Body of Christ, where the love and fellowship surpass all we could have known. The sacrifices we make may seem scary, counter-world culture or even counterintuitive to your personal background, but they lead us to share in the eternal life that He promises, a life abundant in peace, joy, and divine connection. Dear children, let this be a joyous and committed call to each of us as we navigate the journey of true faith with Jesus. As you count the cost, remember the great love that God our Father has extended to you, when all you deserved was death. Remember the blessings that fuel and result from your sacrifice. True Discipleship is not meant to be a burdensome path but a liberating, life-giving endeavor into the fullness of God's kingdom. It is a journey where every trial is met with grace and each sacrifice with divine reward.

Embrace the cross with joy, knowing that what you give up cannot come close in comparison to what you gain in Christ. As you walk out the faith, may God's Holy Spirit empower you to walk in unwavering trust for Him, sharing the richness of life with Him, both now and eternally. Let us all lean into this beautiful reality, urging others to do the same, as we faithfully defend the faith and proclaim the hope found in following our Savior, Our God, Our Father, Our true and faithful Friend.

REMEMBER: Choosing Jesus is choosing to:

- Accept
- Follow and
- Spread the Teaching and Life of Jesus Christ!

What Can we Expect when God Builds the House?

- Self- Denial – Self-Sacrifice – Transformation
- A Drive to make more Disciples
- Compassion and love for the broken
- Love For other Believers
- Eternal Life

Scriptural Exegesis (explanation) – Luke 14:25-33:

Verse Context:

In this passage, Jesus addresses a large crowd of Jews (His fellow countrymen) that are following Him. His words are plain and challenging, aimed at clarifying the true cost of discipleship. Throughout His ministry, Jesus often spoke to Jewish crowds, including His disciples and Pharisees. In Luke 14, specifically, He is dining at the house of a prominent Pharisee (Luke 14:1), engaging in discussions that reveal the challenges of discipleship, the value of humility, and the nature of the Kingdom of God, and these types of teachings continued into the verses we are breaking down today. Remember, The Jewish audience would have been well-versed in the laws, traditions, and expectations of discipleship according to their religious heritage, but the Lord is teaching how true discipleship from the heart is supposed to be expressed. Jesus challenged many of their traditional views as He taught about the deeper spiritual implications of following Him. Surely, as He challenged the norms of His day, He is challenging us in our norms and traditions today!

1. "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..." (Luke 14:25-26):

- **"Hate" in Greek:** The Greek term used here, "miseō" (μισέω), commonly means to despise or detest in a strong sense. However, in this context, it carries the implication of preference or comparison. Jesus calls His disciples to love Him supremely, with a love that might appear as hatred compared to their love for family.

- **Application:** This verse emphasizes that our loyalty to Jesus must take precedence over all earthly attachments. It challenges us to evaluate our priorities. While loving our families is essential, our commitment to Christ should surpass even our deepest familial bonds. This might mean making difficult choices that could cause familial strife or discomfort.

2. "Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow after Me..." (Luke 14:27):

- **Cross-bearing:** This metaphor signifies embracing the hardships and sacrifices that come with a life devoted to Jesus. Taking up the cross represents a willingness to endure suffering, rejection, and even death for the sake of the gospel.

- **Application:** Bearing the cross requires a daily commitment to faith—making choices that may involve personal sacrifices, such as time, resources, or relationships, in the name of following Christ. It invites us to self-reflect on what we are willing to relinquish for the sake of our commitment to Him. Further it is an invitation to the suffering we may endure as we maintain that commitment in the face of temptation to go back to what feels like an easier way to live according the flesh.

3. "For which one of you... does not first sit down and calculate the cost..." (Luke 14:28-33):

- **Building a Tower – Going to battle:** Jesus uses this analogies to imply that following Him involves careful consideration. Just as a builder must assess whether they have enough resources to complete a project, or a King assessing his ability to face and overcome a great army, true disciples must weigh the commitment required to follow Him genuinely.

- **Application:** This encourages intentionalism and concentrated focused/effort in discipleship and one's relationship with the Lord. True believers must evaluate their spiritual journey and commitment on an ongoing basis. It highlights the importance of understanding the implications and responsibilities of being a disciple of Christ. Encouraging us not just to start well, but to finish strong with the Lord.

Summary

Luke 14:25-33 emphasizes that true discipleship requires an unwavering commitment to Jesus that surpasses all other relationships and priorities. The concept of “hating” is not about emotional disdain or dislike for anyone, but rather an illustration of placing God at the center of our lives. Following Jesus demands sacrifices and courage, urging us to evaluate what we are willing to surrender for our faith. The challenge remains for every believer: Are we prepared to take up our cross and follow Him, examining our priorities in light of our devotion? As you seek a deeper understanding and walk with God, may you find strength and purpose in fully committing yourself to His calling with trustful obedience.

Additional Scriptures for Cross reference and study:

The challenge of True Discipleship:

Matthew 7:12-14

Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 10:34-39

Mark 2:13-17

Mark 8:34-37

Luke 9:23-25

Luke 9:62

John 8:30-32

John 12:24-26

1 Corinthians 15:58

What Kind of Ground are you?

Matthew 13:2-23

Luke 8:4-15



Discussion Questions (for personal reflection, small groups or in-home family bible studies):

1. Are you willing to pay the cost of True Discipleship?
2. What are some specific selfish interests or comforts am I being challenged to set aside for Christ?
3. What does carrying the cross look like personally for me?
4. Am I abiding in Christ's word? What are some steps I can take each day to increase my devotion?
5. What is your favorite aspect of "Family"? Are you creating space and displaying that aspect of love toward others?

Be BRAVE! Be Ready Act Victoriously Everyday!