



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 76 “The Cost of Discipleship” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 14:25-35 ESV

The Cost of Discipleship

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “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. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Salt Without Taste Is Worthless

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

1. The Call of Discipleship demands Ultimate Loyalty.

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Hate that is a strong word isn't it? I hate waiting in line at the grocery store, I hate paying taxes funding things I don't agree with, I hate that Chick-fil-a is not open on Sunday afternoons, I hate that the Miami Dolphins have not returned to



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the super bowl since 1984, and I hate Cancer that has stolen loved ones from me! For me when you translate the word hate it means if I could change it all tomorrow I would, and I would never miss those things that I hated. For me, it is the opposite of Love, I deplore, despise, and would react in extreme violence against it if I could!

So, when I take that word hate and I move it into this passage I automatically go what!? Then on top of that I add the fact the Jesus commends the love of others, encourages us to do it. He believed all the law was summed up in two commandments; to love your God with everything you got **AND** love your neighbor as yourself!

There has got to be an explanation to this and there is. 1st when we look at the word hate, and it did not mean the same thing in Jewish culture as it does for us. In the love triangle of Jacob, Leah and Rachel listen to the word interpreted in the text.

Genesis 29:30-31 ESV

³⁰ So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he **loved** Rachel **more** than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

³¹ When the Lord saw that Leah was **hated**, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

It seems that what it means for Leah to be hated in life, was actually to be loved, **but less than Rachel**. If you know that story Rachel was favored over Leah. Leah while it may seem she is to be pitied she did end up having four sons for Jacob. That does not match the definition for the word hate that I gave earlier. The other reference I want to look at is Matthew 10:37 where Jesus is describing what it takes to follow Him in light of one's family.

Matthew 10:37 ESV

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter **more than me** is not worthy of me.”



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We see that in the text that **hate is a word that describes loving less instead of not loving at all**. That’s totally different than how we used the word today. That doesn’t necessarily make this demand for loyalty any easier. It means that we are still called to love these people in these positions we **just can’t love them more than the Lord**. **This then calls a disciple of Jesus to be under constant scrutiny of how their heart is towards people in light of how their heart is towards Jesus.**

The book of Proverbs often talks about how good it is to have a friend that you can count on. **Prov. 17:17 “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” and Proverbs 18:24 “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”** A friend can be closer to you than your own blood, you can even love a friend sometimes as much as you love yourself under the right circumstances. But even for this type of friend you have to be willing to turn from them and follow Jesus for that is the call.

I have had some good friends and over the years I have been separated from most of them, and not always by my choice. **(Friend Illustration)**

Loving Jesus means that we have got to show those that we do love that **Jesus is worthy of the most love**. We must show them that a man gave His life for us and that life calls me to do the same. If I lower my standards, to put the demand to be loved by someone close to me, over my savior, then I show Him to be a savior not worth following.

The **call of Ultimate Loyalty** means that my family may not agree with my decisions; that my children may claim that we don’t love them, that our parents may feel betrayed by our beliefs and that our spouse calls us selfish.

That’s the rub isn’t it? Isn’t the approval of our families what we ultimately want? To see our family happy with us because we loved them well? But that also shows that we seek out their approval too much at their expense and our demise. We think being liked by our loved ones means that we have accomplished a good thing in our lives **(Saving ourselves by work)**. **That’s not the goal of Salvation to be loved and liked by the people you want it from.** **The goal**



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of Salvation is to be accepted by God demonstrating the love of the Savior King Jesus, and in return you put His demands first.

²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Whoever does not put to death, crucify, their needs for acceptance by their family and friends cannot be in the KoG. **Baptism is not just the sign of new birth but it is the sign of dying to your old self...** If you really love your family, then show them the superior worth of Christ and love Him the most no matter what!

2. The call of Discipleship demands Careful Contemplation.

²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

There is a friend of mine locally that bought some land recently and on that property is a Hobbit Hole. Someone had dug out a basement, blocked it in, surrounded three sides with dirt and put a temporary roof on it. To my friends delight this person could never finish the house, they had to sell the property for the cost was too high to finish, and he is a **LoR fan**, so he is quite content to play Frodo. What was someone’s failure to finish was my friends find of a lifetime!

The key word in our text here is the word “finish”, to complete what you started. I have got to tell you that is a huge pet peeve of mine. I don’t care in my home how many brands are in the fire I don’t get to check it off in my mind, no rest, until there is a completion to that task. The completion of a task tells me it was planned right, you got something out of it, and you are free to put your efforts into other things.

Building a tower in Jesus’ day was a monumental achievement. We are talking about a house out of the norm in that day, a monstrosity that sought to raise your status above other people’s dwellings, to place oneself over another’s social



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standing. Of the people that Jesus was talking to it is probably safe to say that none of them were ever going to even try and build what Jesus is describing. If it did happen and if it was not finished it would just show that someone did not plan well, their desire was not holy, and now someone will most likely pounce on your hard effort. It's **kind of like playing fortnight** with Avery getting close to the end, you get knocked out, and then someone takes all your loot you worked so hard for, drives me crazy!

Family the call to discipleship is **not the call to have one more thing to do**, another brand in the fire, another file open on the desktop, another paper in the 'in' tray. The call to Discipleship is the entire business, it is the thing you do, that's the only thing in your 'in' and 'out' trays. If you treat it any other way in your life you **won't finish**. Jesus committed to the one thing for us when He was here on earth, **to fulfill His Father's will to offer His life as an atoning sacrifice for us so that He may extend His reward, RESURRECTION, for His people.** He demanded not worship, money, royalties, luxuries, homage, respect, nor praise.

Counting the cost, careful contemplation, is too consider are you **ready to surrender your desires for greatness so that you may elevate the fame of Jesus.** Are you ready, when you think of the plans for your life, to put the plans of Jesus first and surrender to what He may want for you.

It may have you stay in that job you hate a little longer, it may have you hold off or even deny that relationship you crave, it may ask you to give what you have been saving for that vacation or for a new vehicle to someone in need. Count that cost with careful contemplation, for in the words of Christ here is the real thing you are deliberating:

Mark 8:36-37 ESV

³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul?

Careful Contemplation means that as a Christian we have considered the cost if we don't follow Jesus, our souls. I hope that is where you are at this morning.



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3. The Call of Discipleship demands Unconditional Surrender.

³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

This, out of the 3 examples here, is pretty much the clearest out of all of them. Jesus knows this about us that although we may not admit it, **we view ourselves as our own Lords of our lives.** We make the decisions for what we want to do. Every child shows us that much. Ever try to force your kids to eat Broccoli? It doesn't matter how much bribery or how many threats you come up with, they will clamp down those jaws like a Flying Great White biting on a Seal.

Jesus is painting the picture of what it means to be a disciple; you don't get to tell yourself how it's going to be anymore, **that is your new king's job.** There can't be two kings on the throne of your life. Really, that's a tragedy waiting to happen. There is something sweet though about surrendering to the will of God because it frees you from having the pressure to always make the right choices and it **puts you in a peaceful place, your Saviors hands.**

I also want to make sure you understand the word 'renounce'. There is no getting back what you have worked so hard for. Renouncing means turning in what you thought you earned, giving up the claim forever to your new ruler.

Perhaps when you first started coming to Christ you were caught up in the offer of free Salvation. That is a huge oversimplification of what you get when coming into the KoG. You are freed from the wages of sin but the results of your new freedom from the world is gaining a new master. **Unconditional surrender to Christ.** To become His disciple, means that you begin to put away the things you are enslaved to. It means you have to start fighting sin. Perhaps you have been telling yourself way too long that your bad habit you have is ok because Jesus loves you and you have grace. Yes, you do, but the Father hates sin and calls us to



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be Holy for He is Holy. We can't serve two masters, you have to renounce and yes you have to fight your fleshly desires.

Maybe your kids are the best thing that have ever happened to you, yeah me too. But when we come to Jesus, I have to be willing to turn over my children to my New King. My King wants the right, His Right, to do with them what He wants. I have to view them as His and **I start viewing them less as my kids and I view myself more as an ambassador towards them.** There is a lot of freedom to tell your kids that's it's not your fault when you discipline them because of who you are accountable to. 😊

There are things that we have to throw out because there is no place in the KoG for them and then there are things that we want we need to turn over to Him, because He wants them to redeem them, make them His, so they can be used to glorify God and brings you even more joy!

Perhaps you aren't ready yet to make these changes then I ask you to pay attention to Jesus' last words on this.

Salt Without Taste Is Worthless

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

In **Mat 5:13-16** Jesus says we are the Salt and Light of the Earth. We are called to bring to this world the knowledge and awareness of God. That's what disciples do. But if we are disciples that have refused to be loyal, if we have not carefully contemplated the cost, and we have not unconditionally surrendered then we have lost our ability to be useful, as a matter of fact we become harmful to the Kingdom. Salt in Jesus day, like gypsum from the dead sea, was not good for anything but laying waste to the ground.



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Salt that has lost its’ saltiness is discarded for it will kill the grass, so it is thrown away, in the manure pile. The picture here my friend is the same place that those that refuse to surrender to God are cast, Hell.

Today, perhaps you have taken too lightly the Cost of Discipleship. My family, I implore you again to consider what does it profit you if you gain everything you want in this life but lose your own soul? Jesus has made such a better way possible for you. He has done the work, He has paid the price, He was thrown away in your place, and He has provided for us through the resurrection the promise we will never be thrown away. **You must believe and your belief is shown by your life of surrender.**

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that pays for the cost of our redemption by His Son, demonstrating His willingness to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Go in the name of the Son, that has explained the cost of discipleship, that has paid the price for us to come by it and will also be our righteous judge if we neglect it.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that for those that believe will help them to surrender to the will of God and will enable us to be salt in this world.