THE COST OF FOLLOWING CHRIST

Luke 14:25-31 Pastor Bill Crouch March 23, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

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Jesus is not looking for crowds of casual followers. (V. 25)
He is looking for committed DISCIPLES.
A. Disciples are called to to Christ alone. (V. 26)
1. We are to subordinate all our human relationships to Jesus Lordship. (v.26a)
2. We are to subordinate our self life to Jesus Lordship. (v.26b)
B. Disciples are called to their cross for Christ alone. (V. 27)
1. The cross we must carry is our God given calling. (v.27a)
2. The cross we must carry requires total commitment to follow Jesus. (v.27b)
C. Disciples are called to Christ's Kingdom. (V. 28-30)
1. All our earthly wealth is relinquished to the cause of building His Kingdom. (v.28-30)
D. Disciples are called to for Christ's Kingdom. (V. 31-32)
1. All our personal well-being is relinquished to the cause of battling for His Kingdom (v.31-32)
E. Disciples are called to for Christ's Kingdom. (V. 33)
1. All our strength, all our desire, all we have, all we are, all we ever will be; all is to be relinquished to His lordship over our lives. (v.33)
CONCLUSION: He who has ears to hear, let him hear!
F. God's community of committed disciples will the salt of the earth. (V. 34-35)
1. The world we live in is flavored by committed disciples (v.34a)
2. The world we live in is preserved by committed disciples (v.34b)
3. The world we live in is fertilised for growth by committed disciples (v.35)

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER

Can you share an occasion when God asked you to let go of something you were very attached to? How did you respond?

A. BELONGING TO CHRIST ALONE (v.26)

- 1. Can you recall a time when you prioritized obedience to Christ above your relationships?
- 2. Can you recall a time when your ego needed to be submitted to His Lordship?
- B. BEARING YOUR CROSS FOR CHRIST ALONE (v27)
 - 3. What is the cross you are carrying for Christ alone?
 - 4. Are there times when you have been tempted to turn back from your God given calling?
- C. BUILDING CHRIST'S KINGDOM (v28-30)
 - 5. What are you building for Christ's Kingdom?
- D. BATTLING FOR CHRIST'S KINGDOM (v31-32)
 - 6. Can you recall an occasion in your faith journey when everything was against you and you fought on regardless?
- E. BEARING THE COST FOR CHRIST'S KINGDOM (v33)
 - 7. As a committed disciple, what costs have you borne to follow Christ wholeheartedly?

APPLICATION & RESPONSE (10 minutes)

- Which of these calling do you need to work in your discipleship journey?
- What is one practical change you can make this week to follow Jesus more closely?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 minutes)

Encourage group members to pray for each other, asking God for strength to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.