

October 3, 2021

Count the Cost
Luke 14:25-35
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

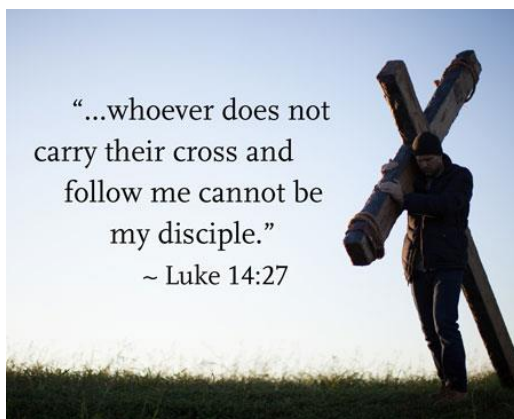
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will finish Chapter 14 of the Gospel of Luke. In this passage Jesus warns that we need to count the cost of discipleship when we begin to follow Him. Jesus gives a few examples about building a tower and going to war and says that we should always count the cost before we start. The harder part of the passage is the section that says we must hate our family members. In the context of this passage it would not be fair, or consistent with other passages, to say that we must hate them. However, Jesus is making a very strong statement about us counting the cost of discipleship. Join us this week as we talk about what we should expect when we follow Jesus and why it is worth it.



Counting the Cost

25 Now large crowds were accompanying Jesus, and turning to them he said, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t sit down first and compute the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish the tower, all who see it will begin to make fun of him. 30 They will say, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish!’ 31 Or what king, going out to confront another king in battle, will not sit down first and determine whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he cannot succeed, he will send a representative while the other is still a long way off and ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way therefore not one of you can be my disciple if he does not renounce all his own possessions.

34 “Salt is good, but if salt loses its flavor, how can its flavor be restored? 35 It is of no value for the soil or for the manure pile; it is to be thrown out. The one who has ears to hear had better listen!”

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. What other areas of Scripture are directly related to this passage that might help us understand this passage better?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why would Jesus say we have to hate our family?

9. Why should someone calculate the cost of building before they start?

10. Why would a king calculate his ability to win the war before engaging in battle?

11. How can the flavor of salt be restored?

12. How do verses 34-35 relate to verses 25-33?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

13. What is the main idea that Jesus is teaching in this section?

14. What is the cost of following Jesus?

15. How do we maintain our saltiness?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes