

The Cost of Discipleship
Lesson #25
Luke 14:25-15:7

The Cost of Following Jesus - Luke 14:25-27

1. Who is Jesus' audience this time? (Luke 14:25)

2. Jesus begins by saying what it costs to be his follower. What does Jesus say is required? (Luke 14:26)

3. Because of time and cultural differences, Luke's wording is often misunderstood. Read the same account given in Matthew's Gospel. What additional help does Matthew's wording give to Jesus' meaning? (Matthew 10:37)

4. What else does Jesus say discipleship requires? (Luke 14:27)

5. How often did Jesus say that was required? (Luke 9:23)

6. What do you think Jesus was saying in these verses?

Jesus' Illustrations - Luke 14:28-35

7. To reinforce his point, Jesus gave two examples. Using Luke 14:28-30:
 - What was his first illustration about?

 - What did Jesus say is the first step?

- What did he say would happen if he were unable to finish it?
8. Using Luke 14:31-32:
- What is his second illustration about?
 - What would he do first?
 - What did Jesus say he would do if he were not able to do the first?
 - Combining these two illustrations, what was Jesus' point? (Luke 14:33)
9. Jesus concludes this teaching time by talking about salt. Salt was indispensable as it was used as a preservative in the days before refrigeration. What does Jesus say happens to salt if it loses its saltiness? (Luke 14:34 & 35)
10. Since Jesus said this while teaching about the cost of discipleship, what do you think Jesus was saying?

Lost and Found – Luke 15

The next three parables of Jesus are some of the most familiar and well-loved parables in the New Testament. Jesus used these to illustrate how the Father in heaven views those who are lost.

The Setting – Luke 15:1-2

11. Who had gathered around Jesus to hear his teaching? (Luke 15:1)

12. However, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were also there. What was the problem this time? (Luke 15:2)

13. How would you describe the attitude of the religious leaders towards “sinners” or those who are lost?

Parable #1 – Luke 15:3-7

14. Read Luke 15:3-7:
 - What is lost in this first parable?

 - What does the owner do about the loss?

 - When he finally finds it, what does he do?

 - What message did Jesus give his mixed audience about how the Father feels about the lost?

Parable #2 – Luke 15:8-10

15. Read Luke 15:8-10:
 - What is lost in this parable?

- What does the owner do about the loss?
- When she finds it, what does she do?
- What was Jesus' message in this parable?

We will continue with the third parable about "Lost things" in the next lesson.