

WEEK 39:

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 14:25-35

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 13:24-30 and 45-46, Luke 8:19-21, John 16:33
and 17:18-19, Philippians 3:1-11, Hebrews 12:1-6

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Your power to give a compassionate witness about Jesus to unbelievers will grow in direct proportion to how precious Jesus is to you in the here and now.

- John Piper

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 14:25-27. Does Jesus literally want you to hate yourself, your loved ones and your family? Where in Scripture would you point to answer this question? If that's not what Jesus means, what is He saying? (Check commentaries.)

Where do your strongest allegiances lie? Who would you sacrifice for, fight for, lie for or perform for? Who or what would you fight to protect and hold onto in your life at almost any cost?

Read Luke 14:28-30. When in your life have you failed to count the cost of a project and needed to bail or lost energy partway through? What enables some people in some circumstances to continue forging ahead no matter the cost or energy required?

Read Luke 14:31-33. Compare and contrast this illustration with the one Jesus uses in v. 28-30. In what ways does following Jesus involve surrendering to a superior power's terms of peace? What are God's terms of peace? (consider Ephesians 2:14.)

Read Luke 14:34-35. What does valuing Jesus over and above any other love or allegiance have to do with being salty -- effective missional witnesses in our culture?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Read Luke 14:25-27. Where have you seen examples (positive or negative) of people willing to sacrifice something for another? What is at the heart of all sacrifice?



Why does Jesus have the right to claim greatest value in our lives?

Read John 16:32-33 and Hebrews 12:1-6. There is no sacrifice Jesus can call us to that He has not already walked in and promised to comfort us in as we follow His footsteps. What makes these truths hard to remember and cling to? How is Jesus better than anything we are asked to give up?



Read Luke 14:33-35. How do even small sacrifices -- being willing to love on someone who's needy or build with Jesus' family when you're exhausted -- produce salty, useful, missional witness to Jesus' goodness?

What are the hardest things for you to sacrifice in following Jesus right now?



Pray that we as a church can have a sober understanding of the cost of discipleship, reliance on the Holy Spirit, and an exponentially greater joy in loving Jesus than anything else in our lives.