

Introduction (Luke 14:25-35)

This week I went to Houston on a recruiting trip. There were about eight hundred people looking for jobs at the job fair. We signed up for a booth at a job fair for the oil and gas industry. We ran an advertisement for the jobs that we are currently trying to fill. Our ads were designed to gain attention and create an interest in potential candidates. We were inviting people to come to our booth and speak with us. We wanted as many as possible to come to our booth and speak with us. At our booth, we had specific information about the positions, and more importantly the requirements for those positions. We also collected the resumes of the people that showed an interest.

We tried to get as many of the eight hundred people to come to us as possible. But, not everyone could meet the requirements that we set for the positions. We interviewed people at the booth and then put the resumes of potential candidates in one pile, and the people that did not meet the requirements into another pile. Then, we went through the pile of potential resumes and selected and prioritized the top six people. We immediately contacted them, asked for references, and we are scheduling a second interview with our Vice President in Houston. We started by inviting eight hundred, but we narrowed it down to six people, because not everyone met the requirements.

We are in Luke 14. Last week, Donald taught that the master said the slave, “go out into the highways and along the hedges and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.” God does not want His house empty. God does not want any to perish. He is calling out to everyone. He wants us to compel them to come in.

(Luke 14:23) “And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.'”

But, in our text today, Jesus gives the requirements of following Him and being His disciple. Three times in this passage Jesus tells us that if we do not do something we cannot be His disciple. In verse twenty-six, He says that if we do not hate our family members and our own life we cannot be His disciple. In verse twenty-seven, He says that we do not carry our own cross and come after Him, we cannot be His disciple. Finally, in verse thirty-three He tells us that if we do not give up our possessions we cannot be His disciple. The passage is talking about the requirements of being a disciple of Jesus.

Our passage begins by saying that large crowds were going along with Him. People were being healed, delivered, and set free. People were seeing attesting signs and miracles that bore witness that He was the Messiah. But now, Jesus narrows down the list of job candidates by giving these three requirements for becoming His disciple. The first requirement is that we must love God more than anyone else. Our relationship with Him must be the priority in our lives. The second requirement is that we must be willing to take up our cross and follow Christ. The third requirement is that we must be willing to give up all of our own possessions. We must love God more than possessions. Our passage this morning is Luke 14:25-35; let's read it.

What are the requirements of being a disciple of Jesus?

1. We must love God more than anyone else.
2. We must carry our own cross and follow God.
3. We must love God more than our own possessions.

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(Luke 14:25-35) "Now large crowds were going along with 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 carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. {28} "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? {29} "Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, {30} saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' {31} "Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? {32} "Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. {33} "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. {34} "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? {35} "It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Before we talk about the three requirements, I want to talk about a few other things. First, what is a disciple? Jesus is giving three requirements of being a disciple. It would be helpful to know what a disciple is. The word disciple(s) is used 271 times in the Bible, twice in the Old Testament in the book of Isaiah, and 269 times in the New Testament. The word Christian is used only three times in all of Scripture. The word believer(s) is used 12 times. The word saint(s) is used 69 times. **Disciple is the primary way of referring to followers of Christ.** The word in the Old Testament is limmuwd, which comes from the root word, lamad. Lamad means to goad or prod. Limmuwd means one who is taught or learned.

H3928; limmuwd, lim-mood'; from H3925; instructed: accustomed, disciple, learned, taught.

The Greek word, which is the word used in the New Testament, is mathetes, which also means a learner or pupil. It comes from the root word manthano, which means to learn or to understand. **A disciple is a learner.** A disciple was one who became like his teacher. He learned to walk and live like the one who disciplined him.

G3101. mathetes, math-ay-tes'; from G3129; a learner, i.e. pupil:--disciple.

In Matthew 10:24-25 Jesus said that "a disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave his master." As disciples, we are to become like Jesus. Our lives are to be transformed from being like the world to becoming like Christ. If we are going to learn from Christ, and become like our teacher and master, there are three requirements this morning for us to consider.

(Matt 10:24-25) "'A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. {25} "It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher, and the slave as his master..."

There are certain characteristics of disciples that Jesus gives. For example, one of the ways that we can tell if **we are His disciples is if we abide in His word.** In John 8:31-32, Jesus tells us that if we abide in His word, then we are truly disciples of His, and we shall know the truth, and the truth will make us free. We must be abiding in His word. If we are not spending time reading, studying, and meditating in His word, we need to examine ourselves and see if we are truly His disciple.

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(John 8:31-32) "Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; {32} and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.""

In 1 Peter 2, we are encouraged to be like a newborn baby, which longs for the pure milk. If we have tasted the kindness of the Lord and become His disciple, we should have a hunger for His word. A baby without an appetite is not a healthy baby; something is wrong. If you or I do not have an appetite for God's word, something is wrong. We should have a spiritual hunger for God's word. Disciples abide in the word of God. That is how we grow and learn from Christ.

(1 Pet 2:2-3) "like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, {3} if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord."

Another characteristic of a disciple is that he bears much fruit. In John 15, Jesus said that as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can we unless we abide in Him. He says if we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit.

(John 15:4-5) ""Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. {5} "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Then, in John 15:8, He says that by bearing much fruit, the Father is glorified, and we prove to be His disciples. How do you and I know if we are learning from Christ and are truly His disciples? Are we bearing much fruit. If we are not bearing much fruit, we need to examine ourselves and see if we are truly a disciple of Jesus. **We are His disciples if we bear much fruit.**

(John 15:8) ""By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."

Another characteristic of a disciple is they love one another. In John 13:34-35, Jesus said that He was giving a new commandment to them, that they love one another, just as He had loved them. Then, He said, "by this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." **We are His disciples if we love one another.**

(John 13:34-35) ""A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. {35} "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.""

If we are learning from Jesus, we will learn to love one another. 1 John 4:7-8 tells us that everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one that does not love does not know God, for God is love. If we are learning to be like Jesus, we will learn how to love.

(1 John 4:7-8) "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. {8} The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

One final thought about disciples before we look at the three requirements of being His disciple. **Disciples are made.** In the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to go and make disciples. It is a process. **It is a process.** As we looked at some of the characteristics of a disciple, we should not be discouraged if we need improvement in areas. It is a process. We simply need to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. We need to keep following and learning from Him.

(Matt 28:19-20) “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, {20} teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

1. We must love God more than anyone else.

The first requirement that Jesus tells the multitudes that were following Him was that they needed to love God more than anyone else. Jesus did not word it that way. He said “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.” Jesus is not telling people to hate their family members. That would be misinterpreting what He is saying and what the balance of Scripture says about loving our family members.

(Luke 14:25-26) "Now great multitudes were going along with 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.”

We are told in the ten commandments that **we are to love our parents.** We are to love and honor them. Paul reminded the Ephesians of that command in Ephesians 6:1-2.

(Eph 6:1-3) “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. {2} HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), {3} SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.”

In the movie, *God is not dead*, the Arab girl named Alysha made a decision to follow Christ. Her Moslem father struck her twice and threw her out of their home. She made a decision to put God before her parents. It was a brave and courageous act, and it is what God is requiring to be His disciple. We must love and put God before our parents.

The Scriptures teach us to love our wives. Paul tells the Ephesians that **husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church.** Paul tells us how to love our wives. Husbands are to lay their lives down for their wives. That is what Christ did. He loved us sacrificially. Husbands are to cleanse their wives with the word of God. Husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives. Jesus is not telling us to hate our wives. He would not tell us to do something that contradicts Scripture.

(Eph 5:25) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,”

In the movie, *God is Not Dead*, Josh Wheaton loses his girl friend because he put God before her. He would not deny Christ before Professor Radisson. The professor threatened to fail him and to ruin his chances of getting into law school. His girl friend gave him a choice. If he chose to defend Christ

in the classroom, she would leave. He chose to obey God over his girlfriend of six years. Do you remember when David brought the ark of the covenant back. He was leaping and dancing before the Lord. Michal saw him and despised him in her heart.

(2 Sam 6:16) “Then it happened as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.”

When David returned to his home, she came out to meet him, and mocked him. She said, “how the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants' maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!”

(2 Sam 6:20) “But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants' maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!”

Notice David’s response to Michal. David chose to love the Lord more than his wife. He said, “it was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the LORD. I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.” David loved the Lord more than his wife. He was a man after God’s own heart.

(2 Sam 6:21-22) “So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the LORD. {22} "I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.”

Sometimes, we have to learn to take a back seat in our relationships. I want Karen to love me. She wants me to love her, and we do love each other. But, I must encourage Karen to seek the Lord first. I am not first in her life. God is first. Karen is not first in my life; God is first in my life. Sometimes couples have to work through the reality of this priority. Karen and I encourage one another in our relationship with the Lord. I pray for her to grow in her relationship. I pray for her to walk in her calling in the Lord. Karen prays for my relationship and my ministry. We have both come to the place where we recognize it is all about Him, not us.

Jesus also says that we must hate our own life. Again, this is a comparison to the love that we have for God. In the Great Command, Jesus tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. **We are to love others as we love ourselves.** The problem with most of us is not that we don’t love ourselves; we do that naturally. Our problem is that we do not love others as we love ourselves.

How does that look? We may choose to fast and minister to the Lord rather than feeding ourselves. We may set our alarm clock a little earlier and spend extra time praying or studying God’s word, rather than getting more sleep. Sometimes the things that God calls us to do require us to love Him more than ourselves.

2. We must carry our own cross and follow God.

The second requirement that Jesus tells this multitude is that to be His disciple, we must carry our own cross, and come after Him. The cross stood for death. It was not just any death, but it meant the most cruel and agonizing death possible. It is the most painful death ever invented by man. The Persians invented crucifixion about 300 BC, and the custom was adopted by the Romans and other groups. Crucifixion was reserved primarily for the most vicious of male criminals. The term crucifixion means “fixed to a cross,” but it was so painful that the term “excruciating” was derived from crucifixion.

(Luke 14:27) “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

Jesus tells us that we cannot be His disciples if we are not willing to take up our own cross. We must be willing to carry or drag our three hundred pound cross to death. In Galatians 2:20, Paul writes that he has been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer him who lives, but Christ who lives in him. Paul identifies with the crucifixion of Christ. What does he mean by saying he has been crucified with Christ. **We must be willing to put our flesh to death.**

(Gal 2:20) “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Paul writes in Romans that those of us who have been baptized into Christ have been baptized in His death. In baptism, we are immersed in water, which represents being buried with Christ. We are raised up out of the water which represents being raised up with Him in the likeness of His resurrection. What is the purpose of this? Paul writes that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with. Paul’s comment about being crucified with Christ is about crucifying his fleshly desires and sin.

(Rom 6:3-7) “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? {4} Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, {6} knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; {7} for he who has died is freed from sin.”

This is confirmed in Galatians 5:24. Paul says that “those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

(Gal 5:24) “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

In Colossians 3:1-5, Paul speaks again about the death of our earthly members. He says that if we have been raised up with Christ, we are to seek the things above. For us to be raised up with Him, we must have also died with Him. In verse three he says, “for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God...therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality,

impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

(Col 3:1-5) “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. {2} Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. {3} For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. {4} When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. {5} Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.”

In Luke 9:23, Jesus had made a similar statement. He said, “if anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” What is Christ saying when He says that we cannot be His disciple unless we deny ourselves and carry our cross? He is saying that **we must die to sin and fleshly desires**. We must die to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed. These things amount to idolatry.

(Luke 9:23) "And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

3. We must love God more than our own possessions.

The first requirement is that we love God more than anyone else, including ourselves. The second requirement is that we must be willing to take up our own cross and crucify our fleshly desires. We must live resurrected lives. We must live holy and upright lives. The third requirement of disciples is that we must be willing to give up all of our possessions. The Greek word that is used is *apotasso*, which means to say goodbye to. *Apo* means away from, and *tasso* means proper order and arrangement. We are to go away from our proper order, which would be our home. Home is a place that you are to have peace and order. It is to be a refuge. A church should also be an orderly place. When we leave home, we are saying goodbye. Jesus is saying that we must say goodbye to our possessions.

(Luke 14:33) “So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.”

Jesus does not literally take away our possessions. When we come to Christ, we surrender our lives to Him, and everything we have. He is the owner, and we are the steward. We are the steward of our gifts, abilities, talents, money, and everything else. He is the Lord of all. When we become a disciple of Christ, we must say goodbye to our ownership of all things.

In the *Shadow of the Almighty*, which is a biography of Jim Elliot written by his wife, Elizabeth Elliot, he is quoted as saying, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”¹ Jim Elliott is correct. We cannot take our wealth with us. We are not foolish to give up that which we cannot keep to gain what we cannot lose. We saw a few weeks ago that we are not to lay up treasures here on earth. Instead, we are to lay up treasures in heaven, where thieves cannot break in and steal. Our heart is where our treasure is, so we must make sure that the Kingdom of God is our treasure, not the things that are on the earth. We must be willing to give up our possessions.

¹Shadow of the Almighty, 1958, by Jim Elliot, page 174 (Chapter 4),

In our materialistic society, giving up our treasures is not an easy thing to do. We are taught to accumulate as much as we can for ourselves. But Jesus called the man a fool who built bigger barns to store his earthly treasures, and who did not store up treasures in heaven. Christians have a difficult time with this concept. The average church member gives between two and two and a half percent. The Scriptures teach us to give tithes and offerings. Tithes are ten percent of our income and offerings are that which we give above and beyond our tithes. We are taught to be cheerful and generous givers. Yet, the majority of Christians do not tithe, or give offerings above their tithes. We have to ask ourselves if we have given up our possessions as God requires of His disciples.

To become a disciple means that we have to put Christ before all of our possessions that we are entrusted with. John said that you cannot love God and love money. **We cannot love the world and the things in the world.** If we love the world, the love of the Father is not in us. That is a strong statement. If we are going to become a disciple of Christ, we must be willing to give up all of our possessions and follow Him.

(1 John 2:15-16) "Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."

Let's take a look at two examples. In Matthew 19, a wealthy young man came to Jesus and asked Him what he needed to do to obtain eternal life. Jesus told Him to keep the commandments. "The young man said to Him, 'all these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?' Jesus said to him, 'if you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.' But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property." This young man was not willing to become Jesus' disciple. He was not willing to give up all His possessions and follow Christ.

(Matt 19:16-22) "And someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?" {17} And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.... {20} The young man *said to Him, "All these things I have kept; what am I still lacking?" {21} Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." {22} But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property."

A second example is found in Luke 19. There was a tax collector named Zaccheus, and he was rich. As Jesus approached Jericho, he climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus. Luke tells us that he was small in stature, and he couldn't see over the crowd.

(Luke 19:1-4) "He entered Jericho and was passing through. {2} And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. {3} Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. {4} So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way."

Jesus looked up and said to him, “hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” Zaccheus hurried and came down and received Him gladly. Then, Zaccheus made this statement, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”

(Luke 19:5-8) “When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” {6} And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. {7} When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” {8} Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”

Zaccheus was willing to give up all his possessions and follow Jesus. He was willing to put God before all his possessions. Zaccheus became a disciple of Jesus on that day. Notice how Jesus responds to Zaccheus. “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.”

(Luke 19:9-10) “And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. {10} For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

In Matthew 19, Jesus said it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. We have looked at two examples of rich man. One went away grieved, because he would not choose to give up all his possessions and follow Jesus. The other rich man went through the eye of the needle.

(Matt 19:24) “Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

A few weeks ago I read an excerpt to you from Randy Alcorn’s book, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*. We saw that we are very rich in comparison to the rest of the world. Over half of the world lives on less than two dollars a day. It is not difficult for them to give up their possessions and follow Jesus. Most of us have a much more difficult time giving up our possessions and following Jesus.

How do we know if we have given up our possessions and are following Him? One of the best ways to check a person’s priorities is to look at his check book. How do we spend our money? Do we tithe? Do we give offerings above and beyond the tithe? Does our giving reflect a generous heart or a stingy heart? Do we freely give to those in need? Do we worry and fret over finances or do we trust God with our finances? Have we put God above all of our possessions?

Conclusion

Jesus wants us to weigh and consider the costs. He does not want us to take these three requirements lightly. In verse 28, He says, “for which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’”

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(Luke 14:28-30) ““For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? {29} Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, {30} saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'”

When I built the Houston Training Center three years ago, I created a design of what we needed, and would work for us. Then, I sent it out to several different contractors, and asked them to submit a bid to do the work. They met with the various subcontractors to get electrical, plumbing, framing, drywall, flooring, and HVAC bids. Then, they gave me their total cost to build our training center. We reviewed all the bids, and then took the best overall bid. We knew how much the training center was going to cost to build before we ever started the project. We had to count the cost and determine if we had enough money to move forward with the project.

An example which is closer to home is our facility. It is going to cost about sixty thousand dollars for us to finish the build-out. Connecting to the city sewer will cost about fifteen thousand dollars. The HVAC will cost about twenty thousand dollars. The bathrooms will cost about ten thousand. The architect will cost another four thousand. The electrical work, framing, drywall, and other costs make up the rest of that amount. We do not have that much money. Therefore, we are breaking up the build-out into phases and we will do them as God brings in the finances. Our next phase is to build out the classroom area on the north end of the building. We have enough money to complete that stage, so we are getting started on that phase. When we have the money, we will do the next phase, which is the kitchen and bathrooms. When we have the rest of the money, we will finish the main auditorium. We have counted the cost carefully before building.

That is Jesus is saying in our passage today. He is going to give us the three requirements of becoming His disciple. He wants each of us to count the costs and decide if we are willing to follow Him. Jesus gives a second example. He says, “or what king, when he sets out to meet another in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.” Again, Jesus wants us to count the costs of following Him before making a decision to become His disciple.

(Luke 14:31-32) “Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? {32} Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.”

Jesus concludes by saying that salt is good, but if it becomes tasteless, it is useless for the soil or the manure pile. It must be thrown out. If we are not willing to put God before all of our relationships and ourselves, we will be tasteless. If we are not willing to put our flesh to death and live holy and upright lives, we are useless. **God wants us to be the salt of the earth**, and we cannot be salt if we are living immoral lives. If we are not willing to give up our possessions and follow Jesus, we cannot become His disciples.

(Luke 14:34-35) “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? {35} "It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

45 Requirements of Becoming A Disciple (Luke 14:25-35) October 5, 2014

Where are you this morning? Have you made Jesus the highest priority in your life? Have you put Christ before your father and mother? Have you put Christ before your wife or husband? Have you put Christ before your brothers and sisters? Have you put Christ before your own life? Or is life about pleasing yourself or pleasing others? This morning, the Lord is wanting us to put Him before all other relationships. Are you willing to do that this morning?

Are you willing to pick up your cross and carry it? Are you willing to put to death the deeds of the flesh? Are there areas of your life that you know are not right? Are there addictions or habits that need to be crucified? This morning, God wants us to pick up our crosses and put those habits and those sins to death. God is wanting to release new resurrection life, but it requires a death and burial before the resurrection. This morning, if you have an area that you need to repent about, I am going to ask you to come forward. We want to pray with you, and agree with you.

When Jesus was carrying His cross, they asked a man from Cyrene named Simon to help Jesus bear His cross. What you are carrying this morning may be heavy. The Scriptures tell us to bear one another's burden. If you need help carrying that cross, let us help you bear that burden. Come forward and let us pray with you.

(Matt 27:32) "As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross."

(Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ."

Have you given up your possessions to follow Christ? Have you made Him Lord of your finances? Have you been faithful with your tithes and offerings? Are you willing to love God more than wealth? Are you willing to honor God with your wealth?

This morning, God is wanting our church to become salty. He wants to use us in the East Mountains. He wants a people that are passionately in love with Him. He wants a people that love Him more than anyone or anything. He wants a people that are set apart or sanctified for His use. He wants to use us in powerful ways, but He needs us to be salty. He wants us to be the salt of the earth. This morning, let's respond to what the Lord is asking us to do. Let's sanctify Jesus as Lord and become disciples of Jesus.

Let's pray.

Introduction (Luke 14:23, 25-35)

- Disciple is the primary way of referring to _____ of Christ.
- A disciple is a _____. (Matt 10:24-25)
- We are His disciples if we abide in His _____. (John 8:31-32, 1 Pet 2:2-3)
- We are His disciples if we bear much _____. (John 15:4-5, 8)
- We are His disciples if we _____ one another. (John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:7-8)
- Disciples are _____. It is a _____. (Matt 28:19-20)

1. We must love God more than anyone else. (Luke 14:25-26)

- We are to love and honor our _____. (Eph 6:1-3)
- Husbands are to _____ their wives as Christ loved the church. (Eph 5:25, 2 Sam 6:16-22)
- We are to love _____ as we love _____.

2. We must carry our own cross and follow God. (Luke 14:27, 9:23)

- We must be willing to put our _____ to death. (Gal 2:20, 5:24, Rom 6:3-7, Col 3:1-5)
- We must die to _____ and _____.

3. We must love God more than our own possessions. (Luke 14:33, Matt 19:16-22, 24)

- We cannot love the _____ or the things in the _____. (1 John 2:15-17)
- _____ was willing to give up all his possessions and follow Jesus. (Luke 19:1-10)

Conclusion (Matt 27:32, Gal 6:2)

- Jesus wants us to weigh and consider the _____. (Luke 14:28-32)
- God wants us to be the _____ of the earth. (Luke 14:34-35)

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