

# Jesus Taught Total Devotion to God

January 27, 2019

THE  
DISCIPLE  
MAKER

**Open:** What was it about Jesus that initially attracted you to follow him?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 14:25-33

1. In this passage, what does Jesus say he expects of those who would follow him (vv. 26, 27, 28, 33)? Given that "great crowds" were following Jesus at the time, why might he have said these words? How should Jesus' example here shape how we talk with others about the Gospel?
2. In what sense are we to "hate" our family and even our "own life" if we want to be followers of Jesus (v. 26)? (*See Luke 16:13.*) How does this command align with the frequent commands of Scripture to love others (such as Matthew 22:39 or Romans 13:8)?
3. Given that the cross was an instrument of death, what does it mean to bear our "own cross" (v. 24)? Why would Jesus expect those who would seek to be his disciples to bear their own cross and follow him? What has it cost you to follow Jesus?
4. What things might someone need to consider before building a tower (vv. 28-30)? Before going into battle (vv. 31-32)? What does Jesus want us to understand from these two illustrations about following him?
5. What does it look like to "renounce" all we have (v. 33)? How is Jesus' command to renounce all we have in order to be his disciples in continuity with the truth that we are saved by grace and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9)?

**Read & Discuss:** Matthew 16:24-27

6. In these verses, along with calling his followers to deny themselves, Jesus speaks of much gain. According to verses 25-27, what can a follower of Christ expect to gain? How would you explain to an unbeliever the value of following Jesus?

**Apply:** Give some examples of how our devotion to Jesus is expressed. What is one area of your life where you can show greater devotion to Jesus? What will you do about it?

**Pray:** Pray that we would be people who are devoted to Jesus above all else in our lives.

## **Luke 14:25-33**

<sup>25</sup> Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them,<sup>26</sup> "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. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." (ESV)

## **Matthew 16:24-27**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. (ESV)