

Coming to Jesus Requires Your Total Allegiance

Luke 14:25-35 ▪ April 12, 2026 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

Following Jesus means Jesus before _____. vv. 26

Following Jesus means Jesus before _____. vv.27

Don't answer too _____. vv.28-32

Following Jesus means Jesus before _____. vv.33

Be salty, be a _____. vv.34-35

Luke 14:25-35

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied 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 bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ 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? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ 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? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴ "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What's something you were really excited about for a season, but eventually lost interest in?

Read & Discuss: Luke 14:25-35

1. Large crowds were following Jesus (v. 25). What might people have been hoping to gain from Him at that time? What are some good reasons—and maybe some not-so-good reasons—people are drawn to follow Jesus today?
2. Jesus uses strong language in verse 26 about “hating” family. Based on this passage and other related Scriptures (Eph. 6:1-3; 1 Tim. 5:4; Matt 10:34-39), what do you think He’s really getting at? In what kinds of situations might someone actually feel the tension of choosing Jesus over family?
3. Jesus says a disciple must “bear his own cross” (v. 27). What might that look like in everyday life? (See also Luke 9:23-24.) Why is it often more difficult to live for Jesus through a series of small, daily choices than to make one or two occasional, high-stakes sacrifices?
4. Jesus gives the examples of building a tower and a king going to war (vv. 28-32). What are these two stories meant to teach us about what Jesus expects of those considering following Him? What are some potential dangers of approaching faith without “counting the cost” beforehand?
5. In these examples, Jesus emphasizes the importance of finishing (completing the tower or winning the battle). What are some costs—emotional, social, or personal—that people might not anticipate when they first start following Jesus? What are some different factors that make it hard for people to “finish” or stay faithful over the long haul?
6. What does it practically look like to “renounce all that you have” (v. 33) beyond just money or possessions? In your view, why is the end result of following Jesus worth the extreme costs He mentions earlier in the passage?
7. Jesus warns about salt losing its “saltiness” (vv. 34-35). What would it look like for a disciple to lose their distinctiveness or their “saltiness” today? How does this imagery of salt connect to what Jesus said about the importance of finishing and counting the cost?

Apply: As you think about this passage, where are you most tempted to hold something back from Jesus right now—such as your time, your comfort, a relationship, your plans, or something else? What would it look like this week to take one step toward putting Jesus first in that area?

Pray: Ask God to reveal any areas where your allegiance to Him is divided. Thank Jesus for giving everything for you through the cross. Ask for strength to follow Him not just with enthusiasm, but with endurance.