

## ***Follow: Part 1***

Luke 14.25-35

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Having spent two years looking closely at Jesus through the Gospel of Mark, we turn now to a brief three week series to ask: are we prepared to follow Jesus? We lean together as a church into a time of repentance and recommitment.

### **Introduction**

- Matthew 8.20 – many may come to Jesus, but his call to followership is an uncomfortable one.
- Deuteronomy 12.32 – God's words are not to be added or taken away from.
- We can be tempted to embrace a comfort-infused Christianity rather than truly following Jesus.

### **Luke 14.25-27**

- We join the large crowd following Jesus, in the middle of Luke's Gospel.
- We are not like this crowd; most of us have already chosen to follow Jesus. This makes his words all the weightier.
- Jesus uses this strong language not to endorse hate, but to show the comparative allegiance we should have to him over anything or anyone else.
- Just like the God of Israel we get to know in the Old Testament, Jesus is a jealous God.

### **Idolatry**

- How does something gain idol status? It is whatever we worship – whatever bumps Jesus out of the top spot.
- Idols can't sustain the weight of our worship. They will crumble, disappoint and mislead.
- The earth, pleasure, jobs, family, everything is for our benefit and enjoyment. But in the place of God they become what they should not be.
- Mark 10.21-22

We are called to surrender: sin, idols, control.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What did Sunday's sermon say to you?
- Why does Jesus use such strong language and imagery?
- Were you challenged? How?
- What are some next steps?