

Follow: Part Two

Luke 14.28-33

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Review Luke 14.25-27

- Jesus' drastic call to followership.
- The comparison of "loves". Ordering our hearts.
- How did we respond?

25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, 26 "If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. 27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

My Question

- Why is Jesus so intense? What drives Jesus to use such strong, even abrasive language / imagery?

Surrounding Stories

- The answer might be found in the following pictures he provides. Luke gives us a couple of Jesus' stories in the surrounding moments that depict the gravity and nature of what he offers and how we respond.
- Before: A banquet story at dinner (Luke 14.15-24).
 - God's invitation and our choice.
- Following: When valuables go missing: Lost sheep, coin, son (Luke 15.1-32).
 - God pursues the lost / accepting our lostness.

Luke 14.28-33 – Pictures of Choice and Grace

28 "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? 29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. 30 They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'

31 "Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? 32 And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away.

- The building – can you afford to follow me?
- The war – can you afford not to follow me?

- In light of the second picture, the first picture is gracious. Jesus patiently and kindly warns us that it is going to mean a death, a loss, in order to find real life.

What does it cost to follow Jesus?

33 So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

- What does it cost to follow Jesus? Everything.
- Luke's themes of money, poverty and bounty.
- The challenge to give it all up is not a cover charge or tax, however.
- On the other side of the crucifixion (death) is life. This means that giving it all up means letting go of / dying to what can't give us life. Only God can do that.
- The weight of our worship is immense. We will crush whatever we load our love and worship onto if they are not able to sustain the weight of our hope, love and expectation. Again, only God can do that.

Discussion Questions

- How do the surrounding stories Jesus' uses (the banquet and the three stories of valuables lost and found) inform his words on followership and cross-bearing?
- What can occupy the throne of our hearts over Jesus?
- What does it look like for those to be dethroned? How do we "give up all we own"?
- Can you share a story of how you might have done this in the past or how you feel challenged to do this now?
- What have you let go of that was not giving you life? What are some simple things? How about some hard things?