

29—Cost of Discipleship

Text: Luke 14:1-35

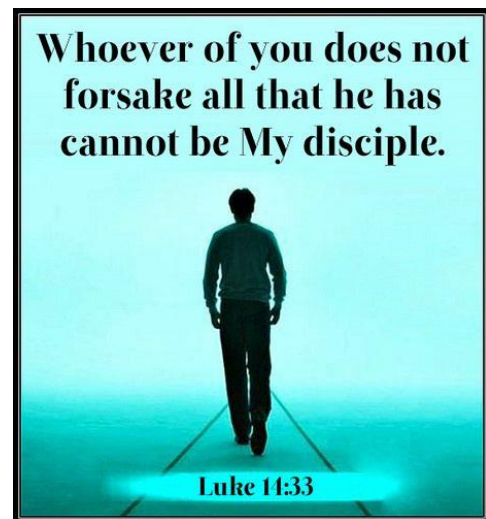
1. In Luke 14:1-6, what important question does Jesus ask “*the lawyers and Pharisees*” and what is their response to Him? Why is it some are often afraid to openly talk about and answer spiritual questions? Was Jesus afraid to openly deal with hard questions? Who is to be our example?
2. What character trait did Jesus note was lacking concerning those who “*chose the best places*” at feasts and were interested in being seen as prominent by others (see Luke 14:7-11)?
3. What habit did Jesus call out among those gathered in Luke 14:12-14 and what did Jesus encourage as an alternative? Think about how it makes others feel when some are included in our social gatherings, parties, meals, etc. while others are constantly excluded...more importantly, what might be the reasoning as to why certain people are excluded? What was it in this text?
4. Jesus turns his focus to the church. Interestingly, how does Jesus picture the invitation to be part of His kingdom (Luke 14:15-17)? What other pictures are used to illustrate the church in Scripture?
5. Despite the invitation to take part in the “*great supper*” what were some of the excuses which held people back from participating (14:18-20)? How do we see these excuses get in the way of kingdom work today?

6. How did these excuses make the “*master of the house*” feel (Luke 14:21)? What did he ask his servants to continue to do as a result (14:21-23)? What are the consequences for those who are invited but reject the invitation (14:24)? Who do you think Christ has in mind here (cp. 14:1, 7, 15)?

7. Great multitudes may have been following Jesus but He does not back down. What does the word “hate” mean as it is used in the context of Luke 14:26? Who must a person “hate?”

8. Can you think of Bible examples where family members had a negative impact on their families? What did the Old Testament actually require of a family member whose relative became openly unfaithful and rejected the Lord (Deuteronomy 13:6-11)?

9. What two illustrations does Jesus use in Luke 14:28-32 to demonstrate the importance of evaluating the cost of discipleship? What is the ultimate point He is making (as stated in v. 33)?



10. If we are no longer influencing the world, but the world is influencing us then what are we fit for, according to Jesus (see Luke 14:34-35)?