

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Be a Fully Committed Disciple of Jesus Christ
SERMON REFERENCE:	Luke 14:25-35
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2434

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The word “disciple” means “learner.”
- b) To be a disciple of Jesus is to let Jesus teach you.
 - i) Matthew 11:28
 - ii) Matthew 16:24
- c) A disciple is someone who learns from his teacher or master and then becomes like his master.
- d) Salvation is free, but discipleship costs.
 - i) Are you willing to pay the price?
 - ii) It pays to serve Jesus.
 - iii) It also costs to serve Jesus.
- e) Luke 14:25-26
 - i) The crowds were following Jesus.
 - ii) He was at the zenith of His ministry and popularity.
 - (1) Rather than build upon this, He thins out the crowd.
 - iii) He didn’t do a miracle to get more followers.
 - iv) He didn’t water down His teaching with user-friendly evangelism.
 - v) Instead, He talked to them about something that seems almost shocking.
 - (1) Luke 14:26
- f) With the Lord Jesus, there is no fine print in the contract.
 - i) There is no bait and switch.
- g) The Lord Jesus is not looking for easy followers.
 - i) We should never water down the Gospel in an attempt to gain more followers.
 - ii) When we follow Jesus, He is not inviting us to share in His popularity but in His unpopularity.
- h) The bitterness of poor quality lingers long after the sweetness of cheap price has been forgotten.
 - i) If we buy something on sale and it turns out to be no good, it doesn’t matter that we got it for a cheap price.
 - (1) We just remember that we don’t like it.
 - ii) If we work hard for something, we earn it, we pay a price for it, and it’s something that we value and treasure, then we will soon forget the price because we believe it was worth it.
- i) There is no cheap discipleship.
 - i) It costs to serve Jesus, but it is worth it.
 - ii) There are some who aren’t willing to pay the price.
- j) Today’s message will share four things about true discipleship.

2) DISCIPLES MUST WORSHIP AT ANY COST (LUKE 14:26-27)

- a) Luke 14:26-27
- b) Jesus must come before personal relationships.
 - i) Luke 14:26

- (1) This verse says that we are called upon to hate father, mother, spouse, children and brethren.
- (2) But Jesus taught us to love.
- (3) The Lord Jesus is not breaking the commandment that tells us to honor our parents.
 - (a) Exodus 20:12
- (4) The Lord Jesus is not telling us to hate our families.
- (5) When we love Jesus, we will love our father and mother more; we will love our families more.
- (6) The word “hate” used in this verse is used in comparison.
 - (a) Matthew 6:24
 - (b) The word is used here to mean choice.
- (7) This passage is saying that Jesus Christ must come before any other personal relationship.
 - ii) When Jesus is number one in your life and others are second, then you can love others more than if they were number one.
 - iii) We must love Jesus more than our personal relationships if we will be His disciples.
- c) Jesus must come before personal reputation.
 - i) Luke 14:26
 - (1) We are not to love ourselves more than we love the Lord Jesus.
 - ii) To be a disciple of Jesus Christ, you must take yourself off the throne and enthrone Jesus Christ.
 - iii) In many modern churches today, the theme is self-fulfillment and self-realization.
 - (1) Some churches have become a sort of cafeteria line where we just go by and pick up things that make us feel better about ourselves.
 - (2) A healthy self-image is good, but we must be willing to put Jesus first in spite of our own reputation, our own fulfillment, or what other people may think of us.
 - (a) The Lord Jesus said to pick up your cross.
 - (i) A cross is not a thing of beauty but, ultimately, of shame and reproach.
 - (ii) Mark 10:21
- d) Jesus must come before personal realization.
 - i) A cross is something that we willingly take up.
 - (1) We don’t have to bear it.
 - ii) John 10:18
 - iii) One who follows Jesus is a worshipper who worships at any cost.
 - (1) Above the cost of personal relationships.
 - (2) Above the cost of personal reputation.
 - (3) Above the cost of personal realization.
 - iv) Dr. A.W. Tozer said that it means three things when a person takes up his cross and is crucified with Christ:

- (1) He is facing only one way.
 - (2) He is not going back.
 - (3) He has no further plans of his own.
 - v) When you give your heart to Jesus and take up your cross, that is the last legitimate, independent decision you will make.
 - (1) From then on, your life belongs to Christ.
 - (2) You're not your own; you're bought with a price.
- 3) DISCIPLES MUST WORK AT ANY COST (LUKE 14:28-30)
- a) In Bible times, they would put a tower in the middle of a vineyard to protect the vineyard.
 - i) The tower was there for fruitfulness.
 - ii) Our lives are to be like a tower.
 - b) Jesus first speaks of a crucifixion and now of a construction.
 - i) He has called us to build.
 - ii) He has a plan for our lives, and our lives are to be constructed by His plan.
 - c) The tower is to be spiritually conceived.
 - i) We lay our plans aside when God calls us.
 - d) The tower is to be sacrificially constructed.
 - i) Luke 14:28
 - ii) If you want to be a disciple, then count the cost.
 - iii) There is no cheap way, easy way or lazy way.
 - e) The tower is to be steadfastly completed.
 - i) Luke 14:28-30
 - ii) We are to count the cost so that we will be able to finish the tower.
 - iii) In America today, we have many half-built towers that are causing others to laugh and mock.
 - (1) Men who have said that they were called into the ministry are no longer in the ministry.
 - (2) Deacons who are no longer serving as deacons.
 - (3) Sunday school teachers who no longer teach.
 - (4) Tithers who no longer tithe.
 - (5) Bible students who no longer study the Bible.
 - (6) Prayer warriors who no longer pray.
 - (a) All of these are half-built towers.
 - iv) Luke 9:62
- 4) DISCIPLES MUST WAR AT ANY COST (LUKE 14:31-32)
- a) Jesus spoke of crucifixion, then construction, and now He speaks of a conflict.
 - b) When we follow the Lord Jesus, we follow Him into battle.
 - i) There is a war, and we cannot be neutral.
 - ii) As far as the odds are concerned, we are outnumbered.
 - (1) We're the Master's minority.

- (2) In these verses in Luke, the numbers are two to one.
 - (a) But the favor is still on our side.
 - (i) Romans 8:31
 - c) We need warriors who are not cowards.
 - i) Luke 14:31-32
 - ii) We need to be willing to go into the battle.
 - iii) Many of us want to get out unscarred and uncriticized.
 - (1) Many will not witness for the Lord Jesus in their offices at work because they're afraid it may not be politically correct.
 - d) We need warriors who are not compromisers.
 - i) Luke 14:31-32
 - ii) Jesus makes the point that if we don't count the cost, then when the battle gets thick, we will send out an ambassador and try to make peace with the enemy.
 - (1) The enemy is the devil.
 - (2) We cannot negotiate with or appease the devil.
 - iii) In life, there is no substitute for victory over the devil.
 - iv) There is no compromise with sin.
 - e) We need warriors who are not cautious.
 - i) When we go into battle, we must go in with all of our heart and soul.
 - ii) Luke 14:33
 - iii) Oftentimes, we'll tell the Lord that we'll give Him something.
 - (1) He doesn't want something.
 - iv) We'll often tell the Lord that we'll give Him prominence.
 - (1) He does not want prominence; He deserves and demands preeminence.
 - v) If there is any part of your life that Jesus does not have, then you cannot be His disciple.
 - f) The Lord cannot use cowards, compromisers or cautious people.
 - i) We need to have a reckless, burning, blazing, emotional, passionate love for Jesus Christ.
- 5) DISCIPLES WITNESS AT ANY COST (LUKE 14:34-35)
- a) Jesus spoke of crucifixion, construction, conflict and now a commission.
 - i) We are the salt of the Earth, which means that we are to witness.
 - (1) Salt speaks of witness and testimony.
 - b) It is salt that preserves.
 - i) Jesus called fishermen to follow Him and to be His disciples.
 - (1) They couldn't refrigerate their fish; they salted their fish down.
 - ii) This world needs the preserving salt of our Lord Jesus.
 - iii) The problem today is saltless saints.
 - (1) On our watch, families are unraveling, and standards are lower.
 - (2) Matthew 5:13
 - c) It is salt that flavors.

- i) Is there something about your life that's different?
- ii) Is there zest about your life?
- iii) Why would someone want to have your faith?
- iv) Colossians 4:6
- v) Salt seasons.
- d) It is salt that heals.
 - i) Salt is an antiseptic, and it heals.
 - ii) Our world is sick, and it needs salty saints.
 - iii) The salt of the saving Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ heals broken hearts, broken hopes and broken homes.
- e) It is salt that burns.
 - i) It stings when you rub salt into an open wound.
 - ii) We are going to irritate some people.
 - (1) If there is no irritation, then we've lost our saltiness.
 - (2) No offense, no effect.
 - iii) Not everyone will love us when we follow the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iv) Matthew 10:22-24
- f) It is salt that penetrates.
 - i) Salt permeates everything you put it in.
 - ii) A problem we have in our churches today is that we salt the salt.
 - (1) We go to church and hear sermons, and we salt one another.
 - iii) Jesus didn't say that we're the salt of the church, but the salt of the Earth.
 - (1) We are to live separate lives from sinners but not to be isolated from sinners.
- g) Christians need to get in our communities as genuine disciples of the Lord.
- h) Matthew 5:13
 - i) The reason why Christians are ridiculed and made fun of is because we have lost our saltiness.
 - ii) No wonder they walk on us; we are good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under the foot of men.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Would you like to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ?
 - i) One who witnesses at any cost?
 - ii) One who works at any cost?
 - iii) One who wars at any cost?
 - iv) One who witnesses at any cost?
- b) Someone once said that in order to be happy, a person must have something to believe in, someone to love, and a cause to serve.
 - i) We find all of that in Jesus Christ.
- c) In order to be a fully committed disciple of Christ, you must first be saved.
 - i) Are you saved?
 - ii) Have you received the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord?

- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16