

Luke 14.25-35

Come and Live!

Luke keeps Changing PERSPECTIVE of Camera Shots on JESUS

Zoom: Dinner Parties // Tight Shots: Disciples // Wide Angle: Crowds

v. 25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus...

Everyone LOVES a PARADE – EXCITING – Atmosphere was ELECTRIC

Large CROWDS MANY Motives – Get FED, Get HEALED, See Miracles

Zealots eager to OVERTHROW Oppressive Roman COLONIAL Rule

### 1. Demand

JESUS sees Journey to Jerusalem as OPPORTUNITY to Gain DISCIPLES

LUKE > CROWDS – Pool of Neutral People – POTENTIAL DISCIPLES

As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."  
Luke 9.57

Jesus gives them FULL Attention > TURNS and Speaks to Them

v. 25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said...

a. Shock! > HATE your FAMILY and KILL YOURSELF!

Described GREAT Banquet – Religion and Connections might DISQUALIFY

Those who EXPECT to Sit with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob – LOYAL Jews – OUT!

GENTILES from DISTANT Lands take Seats of HONOR at God's BANQUET!

KINGDOM of God DEMANDS New Commitments, Attitudes, and Allegiances

v. 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. Being DISCIPLE is Giving the ONE you FOLLOW your FIRST LOYALTY

FAR Above MOST DEAR, Natural, Vital RELATIONSHIPS of Life

Emphasis of KINGDOM > RE-DIRECTED LOYALTIES > New Community

Jesus NOT Inviting SPECTATORS but SOLDIERS

CLOSEST Bonds may also HINDER YOU from Coming

SHOCK to Modern EVANGELICALS > Turn OFF Music, Turn UP LIGHTS!

MODERN Preachers > Every HEAD BOWED – EYE Closed

NOT going to Make you EVEN STAND Up – Lift Up HEAD – EYES MEET

Do NOT Worry – NO ONE Will KNOW you DECIDED to Follow Jesus

JESUS > When YOU REJECTED by FAMILY and HUNG on Cross > Visible!

WESTERN Church “Easy Believism” – Cross is PAINLESS even PROFITABLE!

MUCH of World Today: Similar to 1<sup>st</sup> C Palestine FOLLOW Jesus is Death March

What is demanded of disciples...in the network of many loyalties in which all of us live, the claim of Christ and the gospel not only takes precedence but, in fact, redefines the others.

Fred Craddock

Jesus NEVER says we should FOCUS on the FAMILY > FOCUS on Him ALONE

SOMETIMES Following Him means GOING AGAINST RELIGION of Family

Some PARENTS Discourage CHILDREN from making FULL Commitment to X

Some MARRIAGES turn INWARD instead of SERVING, GIVING to OTHERS

Some PARENTS make IDOLS of their CHILDREN and their ACTIVITIES

Sometimes Must CHALLENGE Family Expects: Jobs, Career, Lifestyle, Locations

At END of DAY WHO is LORD of your LIFE? MARRIAGE? FAMILY? KIDS?

Only WHEN Jesus is UNRIVALED Lord can you TRULY LOVE Anyone Else

## b. Scripture interprets Scripture

...the love the disciple has for him (Jesus) must be so great that the best of earthly loves is hatred by comparison. Leon Morris

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the LORD says. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals." Malachi 1.2,3

ESAU had MTS. & INHERITANCE – For Some ENVIABLE, NOT Good as Jacob  
Some PEOPLE have to LIVE in BEIJING, Some in HAWAII God Loves BOTH!  
Jacob...loved Rachel more than Leah...Leah was hated Genesis 29.30,31

To hate is a Semitic expression meaning to turn away from, to detach oneself from. There is nothing of that emotion we experience in the expression 'I hate you.' Fred Craddock

NOT talking about EMOTIONS > NOT POSITIVE ANTAGONISM  
Not SCREAMING "I HATE You" – Slamming Doors and Hanging Up Phone!

NO Allowance in Scripture to LITERALLY HATE ANYONE esp. Your Parents

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you... Luke 6.27

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5.8

5<sup>th</sup> Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother..." Exodus 20.12

MATTHEW'S Gospel Clarifies > Love for Jesus SO EXCEEDS All Other Loves  
All Earthly AFFECTIONS – Even our Loves – Look like HATRED by Comparison

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.." Matthew 10.37

I have this day been before God, and have given myself, all that I am and have to God; so that I am not, in any respect, my own...I have given myself clear away, and have not retained any thing as my own...I have given every power to him, so that for the future, I'll challenge no right to myself...This, I have done; and I pray God, for the sake of Christ...to receive me now, as entirely his own.

Jonathan Edwards, age 19

## 2. Deliberation

Jesus wants DECISIVE, DELIBERATE, DETERMINED Disciples

Following HIM Not a WHIM – EMOTIONAL Decision – COUNTED Full COSTS

vs. 28-30 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

PARABLE from RURAL Life > TOWER for One's VINEYARD

Gives BETTER VIEW of ONCOMING Thieves and FORAGING Animals

POOR Planning results in PUBLIC HUMILIATION

Late 1990's National Aeronautics and Space Admin – NASA from USA > MARS

MISSION MOTTO 'FASTER, BETTER, CHEAPER'

So CHEAP did NOT Buy Simulation Braking Software for COMPUTER Testing

Dec 1999 Mars Polar Lander slammed FULL SPEED into Mars > 1000's PIECES

SPACE Craft cost \$ 165 Million > TRULY – 'FASTER, BETTER, CHEAPER'

vs. 31,32 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the

one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

PARABLE from ROYAL HOUSE – Great Issues of War & Peace are SETTLED

A foolish general begins a battle hoping for victory, a wise general begins a battle having already secured it. Sun Tzu

Rich & Poor/ Royalty & Peasants: ALL Must make MOST Important Life Decision

SIMILAR Stories > DIFFERENT Points

TOWER Building is CHOICE / RESPONDING to INVASION is NECESSITY

Sit down and reckon whether you can afford to follow me... Sit down and reckon whether you can afford to refuse my demands. A.M. Hunter

BEGIN Path of DISCIPLESHIP? > Do you have STAMINA to FINISH the March?

### 3. Decision

Words about DISCIPLES > Door is OPEN > ANYONE can BECOME Disciple

SEEKER – Friendly but did NOT have a Seeker-Friendly GOSPEL > One Message

3 Vs. END with Same Words: “Cannot be my Disciple”

v. 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--*he cannot be my disciple.*

v. 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me *cannot be my disciple.*

v. 33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has *cannot be my disciple.*

v. 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple. Refusing to SUPPORT Family Member in Decision that is IMMORAL before God Refusing to ENDORSE a Relationship that DISHONORS God

World 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' > Before God you WILL ASK and you WILL TELL  
 Confronting Brother, Sister, Mother, Father who PRACTICING Open Sin  
 OFFICE when Speak for TRUTH when Colleagues told BOSS ANOTHER Story  
 CLASSROOM when behave RIGHTEOUSLY when all others REBEL

Unless Jesus is our highest affection we cannot be his disciples. Philip Ryken

Pastor – NOT Marry UNEQUALLY Yoked – Both Believers / Both Unbelievers  
 Daughter of Leading Church Member – UNBELIEVER came with MAN  
 NO Problem – MANDATORY Preparation CLASS > PROBLEM AROSE  
 MAN Received Jesus as Savior and Lord > Pastor could NOT MARRY them  
 CHURCH Member tried Lead REVOLT against Pastor / Refused Marry Daughter

Appears to THEM you are LOVING God MORE than Them –  
 IN TRUTH you are LOVING BOTH – FAMILY / FRIENDS AND God

Crowd NO IDEA Jesus going to JERUSALEM to DIE on a CROSS

v. 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my  
 disciple.

When MAN from their Village went OFF with SMALL Group ROMAN Soldiers  
 CARRYING his Own CROSS – ONE Way Trip – NOT Coming Back

Only cross bearers can be disciples... Sometimes discipleship is portrayed as a  
 distinct phase from saving faith, but Jesus rejects such distinction. Darrell Bock

'bearing Cross' TODAY is NOT Normal LIFE AFFLICTIONS faced by ALL  
 PAIN in Family Life – LOW Salary – BAD Health – LOUSY Neighbors

CROSS > What we ENDURE BECAUSE we KNOWN as Follower of Jesus  
 Mocked at School – Gossip of Neighbors – Hatred in Workplace – Strife at Home  
 IF this is FOR Jesus – it is FROM Jesus – We must ENDURE it WITH Jesus

Jerusalem NOT DISTANT Goal – Soon will be PAINFUL REALITY

Discipleship is a most painful task because it is self-giving and self-forgetting, like dragging a cross for one's own execution. Paul John Isaak

I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Corinthians 15.31

v. 33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

RADICAL – ALL or NOTHING – Demand > DETACHMENT at Least Emotional  
 For SOME called to PHYSICAL Detachment > Like RICH, YOUNG Ruler

GIVE UP – Say Goodbye / RENOUNCE > PRESENT Tense > CONSTANTLY  
 Characteristic Feature of DISCIPLE > ENTIRE LIFE Rooted in GOD ALONE!  
 RADICAL Abandonment of ALL SECURITIES Promised by Life, Family, World

Only a man who is God could honestly make these claims and expect them to be met. Douglas Milne

Should I be called to lay down my life, do not grieve, dear sister, that I came here, for most joyfully will I die for him who laid down His life for me...

Last letter written by Elizabeth Freeman  
 Martyred by Muslims in 1857

“That was REALLY GOOD Sermon – SHOULD HAVE given an ALTAR Call”

IF Really Good: Presented FULL Demands of Jesus & Their Responsibility to Come  
 Luke never shows JESUS leading Crowds in Just One More verse of ‘*Just as I Am*’

Person is YOU – Time is NOW – Demand is EVERYTHING

#### 4. Destiny

When Jesus invites a man to follow him, he bids him to come and die.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

IF you BURN all your BRIDGES > WHERE are you Going to STAND?

vs. 34,35 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

SALT in 1<sup>st</sup> C Palestine Poor Quality – Salt Content LEACHED from Salt Crystals

POINT > What LASTING Thing will you TRUST IN? Family? Self? Resources?

ALL on EARTH Fails – EVEN Salt can LOOSE its SAVOR – All DECAYS

INADEQUACY of your RESOURCES – INABILITY of all you TRUST In

YOUR LIFE & YOUR FAMILY > Most BASIC Identity & Support NOT Enough

Carry CROSS & HATE Family: They are INSUFFICIENT Foundation for Eternity

NEED Something/SOMEONE ETERNAL Changeless, CONSTANT Full TRUST

If you are going to BURN all Worldly BRIDGES – Do you have ETERNAL One?

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Psalm 90.1,2

JESUS is SOLE SOURCE of LIFE, VITALITY, and FRESHNESS in all of LIFE

Think Clearly and Fully – Exhilaration of FULL BLOODED Discipleship



Do I really trust him to care for me? Or do I have to help him along by seizing control?  
Darrell Bock

3 yrs ago NODULE on Thyroid > Tests Pointed to CANCER > Needed REMOVE  
HAD Other Surgeries – Gone Fine – NO Worries > But NEVER Slit my Throat!  
Doc’s Disclaimer: Major Arteries – Nerves – Vocal Cords – ACCIDENTS  
Happen!

5 Days of Worry – Was NOT Just SWEATING because it was HOT in Singapore!  
Went FORWARD in Church Service for Prayer from Elders > Could NOT Sleep  
Surgery went FINE – WAS Cancer – 2 Months Later – Take Other Half Thyroid  
NO MORE Worries – Back to Work in KZ – Flew to Singapore > HOSPITAL  
Wheeled to Operating Theater – High Fives to Team > Go ahead, Slit my Throat!

Knew VERY GOOD HANDS, TRUSTED Them – CARED for my BEST Interests  
Yet – FALLIBLE People – COULD have MADE MISTAKE – PTL Did NOT!  
God is NOT a MAN – CANNOT MAKE Mistake – Cares for your BEST  
For your PRESENT – FUTURE and ETERNITY / You, Family, Friends, ALL!

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32.17

COME to Him – GIVE HIM your LIFE – COME and LIVE – Now & Forever!

NOT LOATHE our Existence > FIND IT – ABUNDANTLY in Jesus our LIFE

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3.3,4

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30. saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

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