

## Sermon Outline

### Are You Worth Your Salt?

Text: Luke 14:25-35

Message: *Because God's salvation design is Christ-likeness, we are to follow Jesus at the cost of giving Him our all.*

#### I. Context

- 1 Our text sees Jesus on his way to Jerusalem.
- 2 Seeing the crowd with him, Jesus seized upon the opportunity to issue an urgent call to discipleship
- 3 The twin parables of the Tower Builder and the Warring King in our text are unique to Luke

#### II. Cost demanded of disciples

##### A. Disciples – Who are they?

- 1 Discipleship was common in the 1st century. It is equivalent to our practice of apprenticeship.
- 2 Christian discipleship is more than just acquiring knowledge but learning to becoming more like the Master in life and practice

##### B. Demand – What it costs? (14:26-27)

- 3 Jesus used two graphic sayings to explain what it takes to be a disciple. One was hating family relationship and even our own life. And the other of bearing one's cross.
- 4 Believing and following Jesus are not separate actions but one complete act of discipleship.
  - a. **hating family relationship (14:26)**
    - 5 In Hebrew speak, to hate means to love less someone.
    - 6 It is to be loyal to Jesus first and foremost. All other relationships must take second place
  - b. **bearing one's cross (14:27)**
    - 7 A person carrying a cross was on his way to death. It is a symbol of humiliation, suffering, and pain.

##### C. Discernment – What is required

- 8 Rather than actively recruiting, the Savior seemed to be effectively discouraging followers.
- 9 Jesus was not discouraging following him but following him casually and for the wrong reasons.

### **III. Consideration required of disciples**

#### **A. Parable of the Tower Builder (14:28-30)**

- 1 By this parable Christ taught those who follow Him should seriously consider whether they were willing to endure all that was demanded of them in discipleship

#### **B. Parable of the Warring King (14:31-32)**

- 2 Jesus was teaching that it is disastrous to delay one's choice without considering the consequences

#### **C. The Cost and the Consequences**

- 3 The two pictures are complementary: count the costs of discipleship; consider the consequences of refusing discipleship. There is a price to be paid either way.

### **IV. Crucial characteristic of disciples (14:33)**

#### **A. Essence of discipleship**

- 1 The disciple is to renounce all that he has.

#### **B. "giving up," not "giving away"**

- 2 This is a call to sign over or yield ownership of everything he has to the Lord.
- 3 It's about giving them up to Christ for the Master's use. For the things we own often come to own us. There is no minimalist approach to discipleship. What God desires is everything

#### **C. Radical nature of discipleship**

- 4 Radical but it is not unrealistic. These requirements of Jesus are similar to what is expected in a marriage
- 5 Discipleship is the loving response to the gospel and an outflow of that love and delightful relationship.

### **V. Commitment expected of disciples**

#### **A. God's design of discipleship**

- 1 In their witness, believers function as the salt of the earth (Matt . 5: 13). They are the Lord's moral preservatives and seasoning agents for the world.
- 2 Such commitment is not entrance requirement into the kingdom of God. And the degree of commitment required might vary. Jesus' disciples "grew" into this commitments e.g, Peter did not "bear his own cross" during his denials, but he did later.
- 3 No discipleship occurs without human effort or merely because of human effort. "Grace is not opposed to effort, but is opposed to earning.( D. Willard)

## **B. Power of commitment**

- 4 The man who has once made a profession of religion, but has afterwards gone back from it, is like salt which has "lost its savor." Such salt is comparatively useless
- 5 Without discipleship, believers are saltless salt. They have no ability to season those around them with the flavour of Christ. They are useless to achieve divine objectives. Their usefulness depends on a faithfulness in Christian discipleship.

## **VI. The Conclusion**

- 1 Desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- 2 And don't delay but count the cost
- 3 Yet Christian discipleship is possible for all
- 4 See the gracious offer from the perspective of not so much of how difficult it is to enter the kingdom but how wonderful it is to be given the opportunity to enter therein.
- 5 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.