

## The Gospel of Luke

### The Necessary Nature of the Faith of a True Disciple

Luke 14:25-35

1. **A Message to the Crowds** (v.25)

As Jesus proceeds on His path to Jerusalem (Luke 9:22, 51), He continues to gather and teach large crowds the truth of the kingdom of God (cf. Luke 7:24).

2. **Three Descriptions of the Nature of Saving Faith** (vs.26-27, 33)

This is not the first time that Jesus has made the severity of true discipleship clear to His followers (Luke 9:23-26), and it would not be the last time that He makes the cost of allegiance clear (Luke 18:22). As soon as His disciples knew and had confessed the essential truth of saving faith, Jesus then illustrated the characteristics of saving faith (Luke 10:18ff).

A. **Who You Must Be Willing to Lose** (v.26)

A saving faith in Jesus is one that values Him above any other human relationship (Cf. Matt. 10:37). While it is never the intention to cause family friction (Luke 10:38-42) or to be ostracized from family (John 9:22-23), a saving faith in Jesus will willingly endure both.

B. **What You Must Be Willing to Endure** (v.27)

Carrying one's cross is a picture of marching to your own death (Luke 9:23-24; Matt. 27:31-32). In the same way that Jesus placed faithfulness to God above His own life and comfort, carrying your own cross means that Jesus is more precious to the disciple than life itself (cf. Luke 22:42 Heb. 12:2).

C. **What You Must be Willing to Give Up** (v.33)

Jesus has repeatedly described the utter bankruptcy of those who have much material wealth but who are not rich towards God (Cf. Luke 9:25; 12:20-21). A Christian's attitude toward possessions will increasingly resemble that of Zacchaeus who joyfully and immediately divested himself of his hoarded wealth (Luke 19:1ff).

3. **The Principle of Counting the Cost** (vs.28-32)

Jesus was not interested in orthodox sounding declarations of devotion that were emotional, whimsical, or thoughtless (Luke 9:57-62). Those who come to him do so understanding what such devotion will cost (vs. 26-27, 33).

4. **The Christian as Salt** (vs.34-35)

Jesus compared believers to salt because of its beneficial properties and many uses. Each time He emphasizes, not the appearance of salt, but its saltiness (Matt. 5:13; Mark 9:50).

A. **Salt as Preservative** (Lev 2:13; cf. Num 18:19)

Salt, a well known preservative, was used in the offerings prescribed by God in order to symbolize the lasting nature of His covenant that will not decay.

B. **Salt as Seasoning** (v.34)

Salt is useful for seasoning food, but if you have salt that is tasteless, it is absolutely worthless (cf. Mark 9:50).

C. **Salt as Fertilizer** (v.35)

Salt can be destructive to plants if it is used strategically applied to weedy ground or if it is widely sown on a piece of land as a destructive act on a conquered land (cf. Judg. 9:45). But if it is properly applied to a manure pile, salt can help to enrich its value as fertilizer.