

ULC Sermon Study Resource
The Gospel of Luke // Jesus Challenges
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July 18th, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: If you could eat a meal with anyone from history, who would it be?

Reading: Luke 14:25-35

Outline:

- I. Take up your cross (v. 25-27)
 - a. Jesus says we must love Him more than *everything* – even our families and own lives.
 - b. To follow Jesus is to make Him and His kingdom our sole priority in life.
- II. Put everything else down (v. 28-33)
 - a. Jesus is not saying we must live lives of extreme poverty and asceticism. Rather, we should practice detachment, and not cling tightly to our worldly possessions.
 - b. When following Jesus is our primary aim, our grip on our stuff loosens and we can use our possessions to freely bless others.
Q: What is the cost of discipleship?
- III. Find your purpose (v. 34-35)
 - a. Our purpose as disciples is not to be a social club or to simply do good – it's to extend forgiveness and the grace of Jesus' cross to those who wrong us.
 - b. When we recognize how much we have received in the gospel, we recognize there's always more to give away.
Q: What's the meaning of Jesus' saying about saltiness?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Are there any priorities in your life that sometimes take precedence over following Jesus?
- 2) Have you experienced the significant cost of discipleship Jesus describes? What have you lost for the sake of following Jesus?
- 3) What is the thing you need to let go of? What is getting in the way of Jesus and His kingdom?
- 4) If someone asked you your life's purpose before hearing this sermon, what would you say?
- 5) Is forgiving those who have wronged you always easy? How does Jesus' love for you change things?

Suggestions for further study:

- Philippians 4:10-13 **Q: What does Paul mean by "all things" in verse 13?**
- Matthew 6:25-34 **Q: Does Jesus dismiss the importance of food and clothing?**
- Matthew 5:13-16 **Q: Compare/contrast this passage to the reading from Luke 14.**

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, your Son gives us challenging words. In the midst of that challenge, may we see that it is the love you have poured out for us in Jesus that makes it possible to love others. That it is the forgiveness that we have received in Jesus that makes it possible to forgive others. God, we ask that before we seek to go and follow, we would stay and remember what we have received in Jesus. We ask that you pour out your Spirit on us to strengthen us in the faith and, empowered by that faith, we would go love, serve, lay ourselves down, and forgive others. We ask this all in Jesus' name. Amen.