



November 2-3 Sermon

“The Cost of Being a Disciple”

Luke 14:25-35

Home Group discussion questions are written by Pastor Art Hunt;
contact him at art@lighthousehome.org.

Have someone read the short segment from the article below as you begin this study.

A passage from “Interpreting Scripture by Scripture” by J.I. Packer

“The second basic principle of interpretation is that **Scripture must interpret Scripture**; the scope and significance of one passage is to be brought out by relating it to others. Our Lord gave an example of this when he used Genesis 2:24 to show that Moses’ law of divorce was no more than a temporary concession to human hard-heartedness. The Reformers termed this principle the “analogy of Scripture”; the Westminster Confession states it thus: “**The infallible rule of interpretation of scripture is the scripture itself; and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any scripture, it must be searched and known by other places [in the Scriptures] that speak more clearly.**” This is so in the nature of the case, since the various inspired books are dealing with complementary aspects of the same subject. The rule means that we must give ourselves in Bible study to following out the unities, cross-references and topical links which Scripture provides.” (From The Interpretation of Scripture by James I. Packer, 1958)

(If you are interested in the entire article from John Packer, one of the premier theologians of the 20th century, go to <http://www.bible-researcher.com/packer1.html>)

Connect: Tell where you have learned to interpret Scripture. What tools and habits have helped you the most to accurately handle God’s Word for yourself? Discuss Packer’s main point in the excerpt from the article above. How has this rule of interpretation kept you from error? Or, if you are a new believer, how can you imagine it keeping you from error?

1. **Read Luke 15:25-27:** ²⁵Large crowds were traveling with Jesus and turning to them he said: 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 disciples. ²⁷And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (NIV)
 - In light of the rule, “Scripture must interpret Scripture,” what then can verse 26 not mean? If you take away those possibilities, Jesus must be talking hyperbolically (using extreme exaggeration). (Hyperbolic speech in everyday life: “It was so cold, his legs were nothing but chunks of solid ice.”)
 - If Jesus’ words in verse 26 are hyperbole, what, in fact, is He most likely saying about being His disciple?
 - Evaluate Peterson’s paraphrase of verse 26 from The Message: “Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one’s own self!—can’t be my disciple.”
 - Do you think Peterson’s paraphrase gets at the core meaning of verse 26? Why or why not?
 - Here’s another take on meaning of verse 26: “If forced to choose, our highest loyalty must always go to Jesus.” If you think that core meaning is accurate, share an example or two about how it would normally work out in everyday life. What might “highest loyalty” look like?

- Are a few of you brave enough to tell the group about something or someone which might have come close to threatening your highest loyalty to Jesus? (Please group, be gentle!)
- How does a Christian live life in such balance? How does one practically put God first?! Every day?!
- What has helped you to do that well in your life? What hinders you in doing that well?
- **Verse 27 is heavy.** Obviously, the cross symbolizes death. Death to what? Is the verse just saying verse 26 in a different way? If so, how? How does it sum up verse 26? How does that work out in real life?

2. **READ Luke 14:28-30:** ²⁸*“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? ²⁹For if he lays the foundation and it not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’”* (NIV)

- **To sum up the truth of verses 28-30**, complete this sentence as a group: In light of the cost of following Jesus. . .
- Did anyone help you estimate the cost of following Jesus before entering His kingdom? Explain.
- As you have progressed through the Christian life, have you made a more detailed analysis of the “cost.” Have you made, at times, a deeper commitment at times to “pay” that cost? Explain.
- If Jesus followers are prepared to pay the full cost of discipleship, what in fact, might it entail? What, in fact, is the “full cost” of discipleship?

3. **Read Luke 14: 31-33:** ³¹*“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. ³²If 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. ³³In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”* (NIV)

- If Jesus followers are prepared to pay the full cost of discipleship, what in fact, might it entail?
- What, in fact, is the “full cost” of discipleship?

4. If the group wants to make further comments about 14:34 and 35, do so. If not, answer the following questions.

- What’s the most important thing that you take away from this discussion today?
- How will your walk as a disciple of Jesus be encouraged?