



Week 12 – The Cost of Following Jesus (Sunday, July 26, 2026)

True Discipleship

Introductory Remarks

In the Parables of the Tower Builder and the King Going to War, Jesus teaches that following Him requires thoughtful commitment and complete surrender. Just as a builder counts the cost before beginning construction and a king evaluates the realities of battle before going to war, disciples must understand that following Jesus is not casual or convenient. True discipleship involves sacrifice, perseverance, and a willingness to place Christ above every competing priority. Jesus never minimized the demands of discipleship, yet He also promised that life found in Him is worth the cost. These parables challenge shallow belief and cultural Christianity by reminding us that genuine faith affects every area of life. Following Jesus requires more than admiration. It requires commitment, obedience, trust, and wholehearted devotion to Him above all else.

Lesson Outline

- Tower Builder & King Going to War (Luke 14:25–33)

Key idea: Following Jesus requires full commitment

Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus emphasized counting the cost before following Him?
2. What are some misconceptions people have about discipleship?
3. What does full commitment to Jesus actually look like in everyday life?
4. What competing loyalties most commonly pull people away from wholehearted devotion to Christ?
5. Have you ever faced a moment where following Jesus required sacrifice, courage, or surrender?
6. If someone observed your life closely, would they conclude Jesus is truly first in your life?





Luke 14:25-33

The Cost of Being a Disciple

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² 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. ³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

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