

parables of Jesus

bensnyder

February 67



LUKE 14:25-35 (New Living Translation)

²⁵ A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶ "If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison — your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'

³¹ "Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³² And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

³⁴ "Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? ³⁵ Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!"

We will be asked to S _____ C _____.

Notes: _____

Living *it* out (Discuss these questions in your LifeGroup, and/or with your family and friends.) DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a decision or project that cost you much more than you had planned. Talk about the impact of the "unexpected costs" and how they impacted your life.
2. How do you evaluate what is really important in your life? What things do you find that come between you and God?
3. Read February's memory verse. How do people respond to the phrase "carry your cross to follow (Jesus)?" How do you respond? Why is that difficult for some people?
4. Jesus is looking for more than just spectators — He is calling people to follow him no matter what. Discuss a time or season in your life when it was difficult to follow Jesus. Consider a time when the "cost" seemed too great.
5. Do you desire God's will more than your own? How do you practically seek that out on a daily basis?
6. Do you love Jesus more than anything else in your life? How do you evaluate that? What "markers" do you look for in your life to help you understand your spot?

DIGGING DEEPER Take time to read and reflect on these other passages:

- a. Matthew 6:19-24
- b. Luke 12:31-21
- c. John 6:24-26
- d. Philippians 3:12-21
- e. Romans 12:1-2
- f. Revelation 3:15-22

FEATURED SONGS:

I Can't Do This, by Plumb *Let The Waters Rise*, by Mike's Chair
Perrysburg - Jeff Harris, Lindsey Frantz; Toledo - Cory Payne, Liz Newsome; Whitehouse - Kyle Gray, Lauren Miller

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

(Memorize this verse for the month of February.)

MATTHEW 16:24
(New Living Translation)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me."