INTRODUCTION: Becoming a Christian is easy, but living as a Christian is costly. In today’s passage, Jesus clearly outlines the cost—and the rewards—of following Him unconditionally.

I. Definition Of A Disciple

Luke 14:25, 26, 27, 33  

25 “Now great multitudes were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 ‘If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 33 So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.’”

A. A Disciple Is a Christian

1. A non-Christian lacks a proper relationship with God.

Matthew 7:22-23  

22 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

2. A non-Christian lacks the resources to live by Christian principles (they lack the Holy Spirit).

B. A Disciple Has a Growing Relationship with Christ
C. A Disciple Obeys Christ in Every Area of His Life

Definition: “To be a disciple means to live your life as Jesus would live your life if He were you.”

John 14:23-24  
23 “Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.'  
24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.’”

D. A Disciple Makes New Disciples

The “Discipleship Funnel” for First Baptist Dallas

II. The Demands Of Discipleship  (Luke 14:26-27)

A. Discipleship Demands Unconditional Allegiance  (Luke 14:26)

Luke 14:26  “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”

Romans 9:13  “Just as it is written, ‘JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.’”
B. Discipleship Demands a Willingness To Die (Luke 14:27)

Luke 14:27 “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

John 4:34 “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”

III. Descriptions of Discipleship (Luke 14:28-32)

A. The Builder (Luke 14:28-30)

Luke 14:28 “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it?”

Luke 14:29-30 29 “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’”

Colossians 2:6-7 6 “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”


Luke 14:31-32 31 “Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.”
IV. Demonstration Of Discipleship  (Luke 14:33-35)

Luke 14:33  “So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.”

Luke 14:34-35  34 “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned?  35 It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Matthew 5:13  “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.”

Conclusion