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Ask the bigger questions

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Consider carefully the cost involved

A cost benefit analysis of following Jesus:

What does Jesus require of me? Is it worth it?

- Session 5

In Luke chapter 9 Jesus heads towards Jerusalem where he knows he's going to die. In Luke chapter 23 he is executed. A vast crowd is following him and interestingly, Jesus isn't pushing people to sign up to his cause.

The words of Jesus

Luke 14:25-35

25 Large crowds were travelling 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.

34 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Notice that Jesus says three (3) times *"cannot be my disciple"* (verses 26, 27, 33).

Q1. Does Jesus literally mean to be a follower requires you to hate your family? (verse 26)

Q2. What does it mean to “carry your cross”? (verse 27)

Q3. What is the building of the tower parable all about? (verses 28-30)

Q4. What is the king going to war parable all about? (verses 31-32)

Q5. *“If Jesus isn’t Lord of all then he isn’t Lord at all”*. In light of verse 33, do you think Jesus would agree with this statement about himself?

Q6. What point about discipleship is Jesus making when he talks about salt?

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