

Walking with Jesus “Count the Cost”

Text: Luke 14:25-33

Big Idea: Walking with Jesus is not an add-on—it’s a reordering of all loves and loyalties. Grace is free, but following Jesus will cost you everything you thought you owned.

Introduction: Big Crowd... Hard Words

- “Great crowds” were following Jesus (v.25).
- Instead of making it easy, Jesus raises the bar.
- His call: **“Don’t follow Me on a feeling. Follow Me with your life.”**

Exposition of Luke 14:25-33

1. Allegiance and the Cross (vv.25-27)

- “Hate” = Semitic hyperbole → love less by comparison (*misein*).
- Jesus demands primacy, not hostility.
- Carrying a cross = costly, public, decisive loyalty.
- *To love Jesus most is to love everyone else best.*

2. The Tower: Sit Down and Count (vv.28-30)

- Builder “sits down and counts” (*psēphizein*): deliberate planning, not impulsive hype.
- Risk: unfinished tower → public cautionary tale.
- *Don’t mistake a moment of emotion for a lifetime of devotion.*

3. The King: Surrender is Wisdom (vv.31-32)

- Weaker king wisely surrenders to the stronger king.
- God is the stronger King—yield now rather than be unprepared later.
- *Surrender isn’t losing; it’s aligning with the only Kingdom that lasts.*

4. Renouncing Possessions: Travel Light (v.33)

- “Renounce” (*apotassetai*) = say farewell to ownership claims.
- Not destitution, but decisive re-centering.
- *If my stuff can’t be re-purposed for Jesus, it’s probably replacing Jesus.*

Main Points

I. Undivided Allegiance: Jesus First, Everything Else Ordered

- Jesus isn't one more thing—He's the center.
- Good loves can become rival loves when they outrank Him.
- **Four examples:**
 1. **Approval (people-pleasing)** → silent obedience test.
 2. **Kid success (family as ultimate)** → schedule tells the story.
 3. **Romantic peace (comfort over truth)** → unity ≠ silence.
 4. **Reputation (image management)** → confess vs. curate.
- **Framework for re-ordering loves:** Recognize → Repent → Re-order.
- **Prayer:** "Lord, You are first. Put everything—and everyone—else in Your order."

II. Sober Calculation: Sit Down and Count

- Discipleship = deliberate choice, not adrenaline rush.
- **Illustration:** Student-athlete → pep rally hype vs. 5:15 a.m. practices.
 1. Enthusiasm is a great starter; **consistency finishes the season.**
- **Two counting questions:**
 1. What will this cost me? (habits, time, money, approval)
 2. What will it cost me not to follow? (soul drift, numbness, wasted years)
- *A yes to Jesus today anticipates a thousand smaller yesses tomorrow.*

III. Willing Surrender & Open Hands: Yield and Travel Light

- Wise king surrenders; disciple renounces.
- Renouncing = not losing life, but aiming it toward the Kingdom.
 - *If my stuff can't be re-purposed for Jesus, it's probably replacing Jesus.*
 - *We don't tip God; we trust God.*
- Not guilt giving, but glad re-allocation of time, treasure, talent.
- **Practical ideas:**
 - Time: block Sabbath, service, margin.
 - Treasure: firstfruits giving, Kingdom generosity.
 - Talent: map your skills to unmet needs.
- **Diagnostic questions:**
 - What won't I surrender? (That's what I worship.)
 - Does my calendar show Jesus first, or fit Him where He can?
 - If no one notices, will I still give/serve?

Applications for This Week

1. Name one competing love to “love less” for Christ.
2. Take one “travel light” step (give away, cancel, block time).
3. Write a one-sentence rule of life: “Because Jesus is first, I will...”
4. Teens: choose one cost now (sit with the lonely, skip an event to serve, prayer margin).
5. Families: adopt one weekly habit (table prayer, service slot, firstfruits giving jar).

Lesson for the Road of Discipleship

Walking with Jesus means counting the cost and saying yes anyway—because He’s worth more than anything we’ll give up and gives more than anything we could lose.

Conclusion: The Wise Surrender

- Crowds love miracles; disciples carry crosses.
- Jesus invites us: sit down and count, then stand up and follow, with open hands.
- **Closing lines:**
 - Surrender now.
 - Travel light.
 - Trust the King.
 - Discover joy on the other side of yes.