

Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“The Cost of Following”

Luke 14

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Big Idea

Following Jesus requires surrendering our pride, our priorities, and ultimately our very lives.

Disciple-Making Focus

Disciple-makers understand that multiplication begins with complete surrender to Christ.

I. Disciple-Makers _____ in Humility, Not Self-Promotion (vv. 1-14)

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11, CSB)

Key Truth:

Disciple-makers are marked by humility because they know everything they have is grace.

II. Disciple-Makers _____ the Kingdom Invitation (vv. 15-24)

“At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’” (Luke 14:17, NIV)

“But without exception they all began to make excuses.” (Luke 14:18, CSB)

Key Truth:

Disciple-makers refuse to let good things keep them from ultimate things.

III. Disciple-Makers _____ the Cost and Follow Jesus **Completely** (vv. 25-35)

“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.” (Luke 14:26, ESV)

“And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27, NIV)

“So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.” (Luke 14:33, NASB95)

Key Truth:

Disciple-makers understand that Jesus is worthy of total devotion.

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The Cost of Following

Luke 14

Disciple-Making Focus: Discipleship demands surrender.

Icebreaker

What is something you purchased or committed to that cost more than you originally expected? Was it worth it?

Read Luke 14 together.

Digging Deeper

1. Humility Before Honor (Luke 14:1–14)

Jesus says, *"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."* (v.11)

- Why do you think humility is so difficult for us?
- In what ways are people tempted to seek recognition, status, or appreciation?
- How does humility actually help us become more effective disciple-makers?

Personal Reflection:

Where might pride be hindering your relationship with God or others?

2. Excuses and Priorities (Luke 14:15–24)

The people invited to the banquet all had excuses.

- Which excuse in the parable stands out to you most, and why?
- Why do "good things" sometimes become barriers to following Jesus wholeheartedly?
- What distractions compete for first place in our lives today?

Personal Reflection:

What is one area where you may be giving Jesus your leftovers instead of your best?

3. Counting the Cost (Luke 14:25–35)

Jesus repeatedly says that certain people "cannot be my disciple."

- Why do you think Jesus spoke so strongly to the crowds?
- What do you think it means to "carry your cross" today?
- Why is it important to count the cost of following Jesus rather than ignoring it?

Personal Reflection:

What is one thing you sense God asking you to surrender more fully to Him?

Disciple-Making Conversation

One of the themes of Luke 14 is that Jesus wasn't looking for admirers—He was forming disciples.

- How would you explain the difference between being a church attender and being a disciple of Jesus?
- Have you ever had an honest conversation with someone about the cost—and the worth—of following Christ?
- Who is one person God may be placing on your heart to encourage, invest in, or invite into a deeper walk with Jesus?

Looking Outward

The master in the parable sent his servants into the streets, alleys, highways, and hedges to invite people in.

- Who are the people in your everyday life that others might overlook?
- How can you intentionally move toward them this week?
- What is one practical step you can take to begin or continue a spiritual conversation?

Prayer

Spend time praying for:

- Humility instead of self-promotion.
- Courage to surrender whatever Jesus is asking you to lay down.
- Eyes to see the people around you who need an invitation into God's Kingdom.
- Opportunities for spiritual conversations this week.
- The willingness to follow Jesus wherever He leads, whatever the cost.

Weekly Challenge

This week, ask God each morning:

"Jesus, what am I holding onto that keeps me from following You more fully, and who are You calling me to invite closer to You?"

Then take one intentional step of obedience before next Sunday.