

## Adieu

### Luke 14:25-35: Summary Sheet

Jesus describes what discipleship requires.

Real discipleship means putting Christ above family/relationships and even your own desires.

V25: great crowds, but Jesus isn't interested in great crowds for their own sake, or in popularity for its own sake. He's interested in true disciples.

V26: 'hate parents?' Jesus told us to honour our parents and care for our family, so he doesn't mean we should actually hate parents. Be prepared to offend your family, rather than Christ. To hate = to love less. Jesus must be the first love. To hate your parents is to love Jesus so much that in comparison earthly love looks like hatred.

V28-32: Jesus is saying before you commit to following him, weigh it up. Can you see it through? Have you got a plan? Have you done your homework? It's not just a flash-in-the-pan decision. It's much more than praying a prayer: it's a lifelong decision. It's like a marriage: the wedding day is the easy part. The next 50 years are what count! Anyone can get married but not everyone can stay married. Jesus is saying, 'if you don't have the wherewithal or willingness to see it through, don't even attempt the journey.' Discipleship is a decision that demands the utmost seriousness and commitment.

There is no room for half-heartedness. You are either in or out. This is a call to full-hearted, on-fire, cost-paying discipleship, with all the joy that brings.

V33: Christ takes ownership. We renounce (say adieu) to our rights and ownership, of our lives and of our possessions. He's saying 'say adieu to all that you have: give to God all that you have.' Give him control of your finances, your relationships, your houses, your potential, your hobbies, your abilities, your intellects, everything. Say Adieu: give it all to God. That's what it means to be his disciple, to relinquish control over these things and give them to Him to do whatever he wants with. There is nothing that is not included in the call to renounce 'all.' 'All' includes all. What has the greater pull on your life – the greater call on your loyalty? Christ, or something or someone else?

V34-35 Salt: seasoning, fertilizer, preservative

It is possible to be a waste of space. There is the joy of being useful in God's service, but it is also possible to be useless. Jesus is saying 'you can look like salt but not have its flavour. You can have the appearance of a follower of Jesus but not be genuine.

Consider the parable of Matthew 13:44. 'So many give so little for the one who gave so much.' You might lose a house, some investments, a relationship, but just think what you gain. Count the cost this morning. Consider the treasure that's yours in Jesus and then pursue him with all your might. Give it all for the one who gave so much.