



# The Life and Commitment of a Disciple

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Paul J. Bucknell

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**Luke 14:15-24**

## **B.) The Commitment of the Disciple (14:15-35)**

### **1) Prioritizing Spiritual Matters (14:15-24)**

Interest does not always develop into commitment. There are many browsers but not so many purchasers. Ideas and ideals are fun to talk about, but when it comes down to it in the end, there are only a few that get serious. What does commitment mean? Commitment means allowing Jesus' teaching to shape one's life. A person restricts him or her self by the principles of God. There are not many takers because there are not many true believers.

- What did that person say reclining for the meal in Luke 14:15?
- What did that show of his interest in what Jesus was saying?
- How did Jesus respond starting in verse 16?
- Many were invited but many also made excuses. Name three excuses (Luke 14:18-20).
- What do you think of these three excuses for a invitation to a big dinner? What did the master do as a response (Luke 14:21-24)?
- Why did the Master want the house to be filled (Luke 14:23-24)? What does that mean?

*“None of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.” (Luke 14:24).*

### **Application**

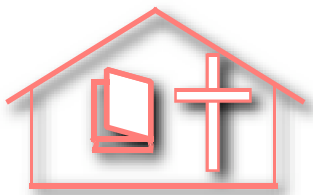
- \* Have you been interested in spiritual things? How so?
- \* Has this curiosity developed into commitment? Give three examples.
- \* What are the consequences of not allowing Christ's teaching restrict and shape your life?
- \* Not a few pastors and evangelists dilute the real Gospel. What does God think of those Christian leaders who seek to please and retain the crowd? Isn't that a good means of evangelism? Why or why not?

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Talk is cheap. There are many window shoppers but few buyers. Jesus knew this truth by the way many people would gather around Him to listen. But listening is not believing (contrast this with Ephesians 1:13).

Jesus challenged them by showing His displeasure at casual listeners. Why? They were deceived. They thought they were a better judge as to what is right or wrong than God. They allowed them to think good of themselves when they were not so at all. They had rejected God's truth and applauded their life choices.

# *Jesus is #1*



# The Life and Commitment of a Disciple

#4

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**Luke 14:25-35**

## **B.) The Commitment of the Disciple (14:15-35)**

### **2) Developing a Committed Heart (14:25-35)**

Jesus goes from a cute story that warns those listening to a demanding challenge to follow Him. These words, perhaps, could not be more anti-modern. Commitment, discipline, self-control, hard work, intolerance, and a zeal for Him (Jesus) make Jesus look extreme. Instead of being a smooth-talker, we find Jesus openly challenging them to count the costs before following Him.

- What was the situation described to us in Luke 14:25?
- What did Jesus say to them in Luke 14:26-27?
- Why do you think Jesus might have said such strong words? (Reflect back on the former section).
- What did Jesus mean by Luke 14:26? How can we hate our family when we are told to love everyone?
- Jesus uses the word 'disciple' in verse 14. What does it mean? Do you think of yourself as a disciple?
- What does it mean by 'carry his own cross' (Luke 14:27)?
- Can a person be a believer and not a disciple? Why or why not?
- Luke 14:28-35 all have one theme. What is that? What are the two illustrations given?
- What is Jesus' conclusion in Luke 14:33? What does it mean to give up all his own possessions?
- What is the message behind the last two verses about tasteless salt (Luke 14:34-35)? How does it tie the message together?

*"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple"*  
(Luke 14:27).

### **Application**

- \* Are you one of the many people who profess to be a Christian or a disciple of Jesus? Are you? How can you be for sure?
- \* Why are there so few teachers who equivocate being a Christian with being a disciple? What is the result of this in the church?
- \* Have you given up your possessions? Explain what Jesus might mean and how you go about doing it.
- \* Write down any ways the Lord is prompting you to follow Him. Don't be just a hearer. Go and do it!

### **Summary**

Jesus wonderfully lifts our view of the Kingdom of God through His teachings in Luke 14. He first gives us God's perspective on how He expects us to live out our lives. He secondly challenges us to go beyond being an observer to being a committed disciple of Jesus. Without being a disciple of Jesus, one is not a believer. A believer in Christ is convinced that His words are everything and thus will commit himself.

Are you a disciple of Jesus?

Do you carry your cross?

Have you given up your possessions?