

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

**LUKE CHAPTER 14:25-35**

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## **HOW JESUS CHRIST BUILDS A CHURCH – PART 1**

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE SON OF GOD, AND THE SON OF MAN*

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SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Discipleship, Commitment, Purpose, Meaning**

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**IF CHAPTER 14 WASN'T DYNAMIC ENOUGH,  
JESUS TURNS AROUND AND DROPS A THEOLOGICAL  
"BOMBSHELL" RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MINISTRY.**

up until now, Jesus had won the day.

*His popularity was at an all time high. the masses following Him created an almost party-like atmosphere. Being with Jesus was Fun, and Lunch was Sometimes Free. if you ever felt sick or knew somebody who was, you could go straight to Jesus and He's fix you right up – things couldn't have been better!*

**"Are You Sure You Want to Be Following Me?"**

Jesus Introduces "Discipleship" to Those Following Him

Verse 25

**:25** Now great **multitudes** (*mega*) went with Him.  
And He turned and said to **them**, (*the mega*)

This is a Pastor's Dream Come True. This is What Every Evangelist  
Prays for (a mega crowd)

## Because in the Human Mind

a “**crowd**” says something. a “crowd” means **success**, a “crowd” means **approval** and **acceptance**. in a word, a crowd means “**validation**”

but none of those things translates into spiritual **truth** or spiritual **success**.

### Philippians 2:5-7

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, :**6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,  
:**7** but made Himself of ***no reputation...***

## Make No Mistake About It – Jesus Turns Toward Them

in a Very Deliberate Manner.

He’s not out of control, He’s not being dramatic, He’s not being sensational

Jesus is About to **Jar** Their Worldview to the Core

**Jesus Wants the Crowd to Think**

Unimpressed by the Attendance – Jesus seeks the quality of the church, not the quantity of the church – beware when “numbers” become the goal.

## HOW JESUS CHRIST BUILDS A CHURCH

**1.) By laying a foundation of love**

**vs. 25-27**

the ministry of Jesus Christ was, is and shall be a ministry of love.  
but not the kind of love that this world knows...

**1a.) This love for Him prioritizes us**

**vs. 26**

“If anyone **comes** to Me and does not **hate** his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My **disciple**.”

## WHAT A SHOCKER

Jesus Sets Up an Obstacle

That was as Radical then - as It is Today...

This word "**Hate**", *the one of you are thinking about right now, is an amazing word.*

**Hate** *mise÷w miseo, mis-eh'-o; to love less. the word means "something that is beyond being compared to something else. something or someone so great that nothing or no one can come close."*

## It's to Occupy a Place of **Absolute Priority**, **Total Preeminence** in a Man's Heart & Life

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**Luke 14:26**

is The Exact & Perfect Interpretation of **Exodus 20:3 & Deuteronomy 6:5**

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**Exodus 20:3**

"You shall have no other gods **before Me**.

**This "Hatred" for all other things is Defined in...**

**Deuteronomy 6:5**

You shall **love the LORD** your God with **all** your heart,  
with **all** your soul, and with **all** your strength.

**This love for Him "prioritizes" us  
because all other things & people are loved less compared to Him**

We're to Love Him above all **things, others, ourselves.**

By The Way, there is no "right and proper" love toward others & things without loving God supremely – an attempt to love others without loving God first becomes a strange and unnatural love.

**1a.) This love for Him prioritizes us**

**1b.) This love for Him drives us vs. 27**

Jesus Places Directly in Front of the Crowd another hurdle...

And whoever does not **bear his cross**  
and **come after Me** cannot be My **disciple**.

# “Grab Your “Electric Chair” and Let’s Get Moving”

discipleship means that you are willing to choose to die to yourself, your desires and live for God’s desires. to do what you do because it’s what God has asked you to do.

## Romans 6:10-11

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. :11 Likewise you also, **reckon** (crucify, electrocute) yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Crucify, Electrocute Your Own Self Desires and Plans

**disciple** μαθητῆς/β μαθητες, math-ay-tes. *a learner, a pupil.*

*to walk in the same steps. to live the same life, to move the same way. to copy, mimic, to be reproducing another. the relationship that exists between the journeyman and his apprentice.*

## Note To Self.

*I’m not to bear Jesus’ Cross. I’m to bear **my own cross**.  
each of us as Christians, as disciples have a...*

## A Custom Cross

**C. S. Lewis wrote.**

“no one can be a disciple of Jesus Christ while seeking to live a life of ease and comfort here and now”

to “**bear**” my own cross

(is to endure, to suffer, is to put up with all that following Jesus entails)

To bear the consequences of being a disciple.

<< can you be a Christian and not be a Disciple? >>

## A Disciple

does what Jesus said to do. you say what Jesus said to say, you live like Jesus said to live. that is going to generate a reaction from this world.

## The Thief on the Cross

became a Christian and in a matter of a couple of hours died and went to heaven.

## Jesus is saying that.

“If you’re going to work with Me – you’re going to have to put up with a lot following Me, but knowing Me is better and bigger than all the stuff this world can offer.

### Verse 27

“this ‘**come after**’ Me” is to pursue him, to seek him, to chase him...

#### Jeremiah 29:13-14a

You will **seek** Me and find Me, when you have **searched** for Me with all your heart.  
:14a I will be **found** by you, says the LORD...

#### Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, ***to those who are the called according to His purpose.***

## BY LAYING A FOUNDATION OF LOVE

### 1c.) This love for Him constrains us vs. 27

This “Love” Between God and His Children is The Foundation of Our Relationship with God... with Others, with the World, with the Lost!

When we love the Lord supremely,  
we cannot help but love others, those in world, and the lost.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:14

For the love of Christ (**constrains**) compels us,

## HOW JESUS CHRIST BUILDS A CHURCH

### 2.) By asking for a commitment vs. 28-30

### 2a.) A commitment requires devotion vs. 28-29a

**:28** For which of you, intending to build a **tower**, (*a place of vigilance*) does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it* - - **:29** lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish...

Jesus.

*“If you’re going to enroll in My class, you’ll need to know what you’re getting into.”*

## **what does devotion look like?**

it’s the giving of a “willful-heart” to God. - - (a surrendering)

## **count the cost of following me.**

**before you start, ask, “how important is this decision” to you.**

*there are far too many people walking around who once made a step towards following Jesus Christ. they might have raised their hand or prayed the sinner’s prayer or even went forward at a crusade. but in time nothing really changed.*

(If that’s you this morning, then you are in either one of two places. (1) is that you’ve received the gospel message and you’re saved. or (2) is that after receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, you now hear, sense and feel that the Lord is inviting to “A Deeper Life” with Him.

### **2b.) A commitment requires dedication**

**vs. 29b-30**

Then, all who see *it* begin to mock him, **:30** saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.” (*a defensive posture*)

But Jack – *“dedication sounds scary – sounds serious!”*

there is nothing in life of **value** - that does not require **dedication**.

are you in **school** or in a **relationship** or in a **career**?

how much more the ministry of **discipleship**

### **Jesus Never “Pleads” us to Come...**

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Have You Noticed Reading the Bible, That Jesus Never “Begged” Anyone to become His follower. He never “Troubled” people to Receive.

**John 1:12-13**

...As many as **received** Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **:13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**Devotion, Dedication and...**

**BY ASKING FOR A COMMITMENT**

**2c.) A commitment requires delight**

**vs. 28-30**

**Why does this man fail in the Parable?**

he fails because of a lack of delight (commitment) to the cause

He didn't think his plan all the way through.

It was a "casual" decision, a half-hearted step. he failed to prepare himself for what lay ahead.

**A Lack of "Delight" in Christ  
is a result of a lack of "Dependence".**

**Psalm 37:4-5**

**Delight** yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. **:5**  
Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.

**Delight**

*aw-nag'*; to be soft or pliable, moldable. to be able to be shaped.

To "**Delight**" in Him brings about the "**Shaping**" and that brings about a "**Brokenness**" which in turn produces, "**Dependence**". = *that's a good thing!*

**Hebrews 11:6**

...for without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who **comes** to God must believe that He is, and that He is a **rewarder** of those who **diligently seek** Him.

**Examples of Delighting in The Lord.**

**King David**, when he realized that he had sinned against God

**Peter**, when he realized that he didn't have much faith  
**The Apostle Paul**, when he realized that he was very impressed with himself.

And everyone of us who, to this hour  
can't believe that God would love us. that He would want us...

## “We Are Delighting in Him!”

### **Psalm 112:1**

Praise the LORD! Happy will be the man who fears the LORD,  
Who **delights** greatly in His commandments.

## HOW JESUS CHRIST BUILDS A CHURCH

**3.) By telling the truth**

**vs. 31-32**

**3a.) And the truth is - logic and reason matter**

**vs. 31**

Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

### **Logic and Reason**

are vital parts of what God created in us.

we've been given “**Capacities**” that lead to conclusions.

### Think About Being a My Apprentice?

use you head, argue it out, count the cost.

### **Matthew 19:29**

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

## BY TELLING THE TRUTH

### 3b.) And the truth is - yielding and surrender is key vs.32

Or else, while the other is still a great way off,  
he sends a delegation and asks for conditions of peace.

if you're thinking about following Me in service (battle) then...

You will need to be yielded and surrendered to My  
command.

#### Luke 9:59-62

Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." :60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." :61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house." :62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

## HOW JESUS CHRIST BUILDS A CHURCH

### 4.) By requiring effectiveness vs. 33-35

#### 4a.) A changed life affects me personally vs. 33

So likewise, whoever of you who does not **forsake all that he has**  
cannot be My **disciple**.

Remember What the Definition of Disciple is?

*a learner, a pupil. to walk in the same steps. to live the same life, to move the same way. to copy, mimic, to be reproducing another. the relationship that exists between the journeyman and his apprentice.*

Jesus is *not* saying that this man is not allowed to follow,

He's saying that this man will not be *able* to follow.

*(it won't work for him – there's too much clutter in his heart - stuff)*

Has My Life Been “Factually Changed” Since Receiving Christ?  
Then Is My New Life “Affecting” Me more and more?

**2 Corinthians 5:16-17**

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. :17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**BY REQUIRING EFFECTIVENESS**

**4b.) A changed life affects us corporately vs. 34-35a**

“Salt *is* good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? :35 It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, *but* men throw it out.

**this is an awesome illustration** that Jesus gives here.  
*Sodium Chloride* (Salt) by Nature cannot lose its saltiness.

**Ineffective Salt Issues.**

but what can happen to salt is to cause it to become Ineffective?  
it can be **invaded** or **diluted** or met (*the things of this earth – chemicals*) with **impurities**, a **foreign** substance. – and be neutralized!

you can lessen the effectiveness of salt by adding “**things**” to it.

**Jesus is both instructing and warning us**

**the instruction is:** that a Christian must be salty in this world.

**the warning is:** that if a Christian is not, he becomes unusable

Jesus is Warning Against “Mixing or Mixture” from the World.

**Romans 12:1-2**

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. :2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## BY REQUIRING EFFECTIVENESS

### 4c.) A changed life effects the world totally vs. 35b

He who has **ears** to hear, let him hear!"

this exhortation appears 16 times in the New Testament,  
8 of those 16 times Jesus uses it Himself to challenge His Audience!

It's an Invitation by Jesus to All, to Anyone  
who is willing to hear Him, listen to Him, to follow Him, to Join Him.

#### **Matthew 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19** Go therefore and make **disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" Amen.

### Only Disciples are willing to Go

and only disciples can make more disciples. disciples grow the church...

It's an alarming challenge.

Jesus is Saying that Each and Every Person  
is Accountable to Him and His Message of Salvation & Invitation to Serve.

## HOW TO BUILD A CHURCH

IS TO BUILD IT THE WAY JESUS SHOWED US TO.

BY MAKING DISCIPLES WHO BECOME FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST.

Well, O.K. Fine Jack,

But What Am I Supposed to Do With All of This?

*they become learners from Jesus. They grow up to walk in His steps. They live life like He lived life, they move the same way He moved. They copy Him, they mimic Him, They go about Doing what Jesus would do. They hold Jesus up as the Journeyman and they themselves as His apprentice.*

**DO THIS AND YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT**

**BACKSLIDDING, FALLING INTO SIN, SERVING THE LORD,  
OR NOT MAKING IT THROUGH TO THE END.**

**1 John 4:16-17**

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. :17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

**In Fact, Peter Put It This Way.**

**2 Peter 1:5-11**

...for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, :6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, :7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. :8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. :9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. :10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble; :11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*End of Study*