

**Sermon Title:** "Are you a disciple of Jesus?"

**Sermon Text:** Luke 14:25-35

**Pre-Sermon:** This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Please take some time to pray that God would strengthen the preacher to speak accurately and you to listen eagerly to His Word.
- Read the passage out loud. What stands out?
- Consider these verses in light of the whole chapter. Why do you think Luke might have told this story here? What possible connection is there?

**Sermon Discussion Questions:** This will help you think through the passage and what you heard in the message.

- Who is Jesus talking to in this passage? What do we know about the crowds from Luke so far?
- How do we generally feel when there are crowds who seem excited about Jesus? How does Jesus address them here? Why do you think he might do that?
- What is Jesus talking about in this passage?
- What is a disciple?
- One reason it is important we talk about what it means to be a disciple is because it is possible to be self-deceived regarding our relationship with God. In what ways do we get an illustration of that in verses 1-24?
- How do verses 1-24 motivate us to pay careful attention to verses 25-35?
- What were two obvious problems with the Pharisees' religious activity that Jesus points out? How does this passage illustrate the way they thought salvation worked?
- What was the important connection we noted between meals and who you ate with and beliefs about the kingdom of God?
- What were Jesus' meals saying about how salvation worked?
- Jesus pleads with the Pharisees to turn from their approach to God and invites them to be part of the kingdom of God, but how do they respond? What insight does the story Jesus tells in verses 16-24 give as to why they responded that way?
- To be a disciple of a Pharisee would have resulted in many great burdens being put on your life. (See Luke 11:46) To be a disciple of Jesus was very different. But there was a requirement. What was the requirement?
- Look at verses 26-27 and see if you can explain what Jesus means?
- Is Jesus calling on us to out Pharisee the Pharisees? Why or why not?
- In what ways was following Jesus going to become dangerous for the people in his day?

- What does he call on them to do in verses 28-32? What should they do if they don't have what it takes to follow Jesus?
- What is the meaning of the warning in verses 34 and 35?

**Sermon Outline:**      **A sermon is much more than an outline, but perhaps this outline will help you follow the sermon.**

Big picture there are going to be two parts to this message:

1. A warning about the danger of false religion and deceiving yourself (1-24)
2. An explanation of the nature of true discipleship (25-35)

But I really want you to hear this message as a direct challenge to consider your relationship with Jesus.

- Are you fanatically, devoted and committed to Jesus above everything else?
- You need to think about that because He was hated and crucified.
- And if you are pretending to be his follower without being willing to actually follow Him, then what good is your religious activity?

**Sermon Goal:**      This is a VERY short explanation of what this message is about and what I'm praying God will achieve through this message.

I want to challenge you not to settle for merely being religious by looking at the way Jesus spoke to the Pharisees, explain the fundamental requirement for being a disciple of Jesus by looking at the way He spoke to the crowds, and then plead with you to examine whether or not you are living like a Pharisee or an actual follower of Jesus by showing you how much it matters.

**Sermon Flow:**      This is a basic summary that might help you understand what this sermon is doing and where it is going.

1. First I will identify the passage we are studying and give you some important background material.
  - a. Here I want to help you understand there is a connection between verses 1-24 and 25-35.
    - i. I am doing that because I am going to spend a good amount of time in the first part of the message looking at verses 1-24. Sometimes all this introduction can be challenging, but I will go as fast as I can, but I think it is necessary for understanding what is happening in verses 25-35.
2. Second, I will introduce the subject of the text and try to motivate you to think about it a little more deeply.
  - a. I will show you from the text that Jesus is talking about discipleship.

- i. I will explain what being a disciple means and why this subject is so important to us.
  - b. I will warn you of the danger of self-deception and demonstrate how easy it is to be self-deceived by looking at Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees in verses 1-24.
    - i. I hope you will see these verses are a warning which should motivate us to pay careful attention to Jesus' exhortation in verses 25-35.
  - c. I will explain the difference between Jesus and the Pharisees.
    - i. Please pay attention here. This is very important or we will be tempted to read verses 25-35 as if Jesus were calling on us to out Pharisee the Pharisees. Before we can understand Jesus' challenge about how we are to respond to his message, we have to understand the difference between the message he proclaimed and the one the Pharisees did.
  - d. I will then look at how Jesus identifies the reasons the Pharisees weren't responding to His gracious invitation to be part of the kingdom.
3. Third, I will explain verses 25-35.
  - a. All that set up was important. Now that Jesus has shown us the Pharisees' approach isn't going to work, he turns to the crowds to explain what is required to be one of his disciples.
    - i. I will look at verses 26-27 which identify the fundamental requirement.
    - ii. I will then look at verses 28-33 and challenge you to consider whether you really have taken seriously what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
    - iii. I will then challenge you from verses 34-35 that if you haven't considered the cost, your claims to follow Jesus really aren't any good to you or to anyone else.

**Application Questions:            We can't just read these passages, study them. It's vital we respond.**

- Are you a disciple of Jesus?
- Are you fanatically and completely devoted to Jesus above everything and everyone else?
- How should your life change as a result of this message?

**Sermon Notes: This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.**