

# **Luke: The Inside Out Gospel**

Week 23

*"Count the Cost"*

Luke 14:25-35

## **OPEN WITH PRAYER**

**GETTING STARTED:** Was your decision to become a Christian a process over many months or years or can you remember an exact time when you gave your life to Christ?

## **LEARNING & APPLYING GOD'S WORD**

**Together, read Luke 14:25-35 together**

1. What was one thing from Steve's message that particularly struck you?
2. Given Jesus' enormous popularity at this point in his ministry, why might he have said what he did in verses 26-27?
3. Does Jesus mean that we are to hate our parents? What does he mean? What does Jesus mean when he says that a disciple must hate his own life?
4. What insights about discipleship do we gain from the parables of the tower and military strength?

## LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

1. Steve said in his message that becoming a Christian was the biggest decision he ever made. He called it a “super-super decision” because it influenced so many subsequent decisions. Have you found this to be true in your life? Why is becoming a Christian such a huge decision?
2. If you had a friend who was considering becoming a Christian, what would tell them about the costs of being a Christian? What would tell them about the benefits? In other words, in what ways is the Christian life hard? Easy?
3. In what ways has this passage and message challenged you?

## SHARING AND PRAYER (Prayer Requests)

Take some time to share prayer requests, where you need to find God’s grace and peace. Be sure to give thanks for each other and pray for one another’s needs. When we pray together, we find the power of God.

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*It is not difficult in such a world to get a person interested in the message of the gospel; it is terrifically difficult to sustain the interest. Millions of people in our culture make decisions for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate. Many claim to have been born again, but the evidence for mature Christian discipleship is slim. In our kind of culture, anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.*

From *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction* by Eugene Peterson