

PRIORITIES
Embrace the Call to Gritty Discipleship
Luke 14:15–35

Discussion Questions

1. In the parable of the banquet (vv. 16-24), the invited guests all decline for reasons that seem reasonable on the surface - a field, some oxen, a marriage. Why do you think Jesus frames ordinary, even good, things as the excuses that kept people from the feast?
2. The message points out that everything for the banquet was prepared BY the master, not the guests. How does that detail challenge the idea that we contribute something to earning our own salvation?
3. The servant is sent to bring in "the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame" - and then later to "compel" people from the roads and lanes. What does this tell us about who God pursues, and how does that compare with who we tend to pursue?
4. Jesus says that whoever does not "hate" father, mother, spouse, and even their own life cannot be His disciple (v. 26). Why does Jesus use such extreme language instead of simply saying "love me a lot"? What does He actually mean?
5. Verse 27 says a disciple must carry his own cross. In Jesus' day, this image meant a one-way walk toward death. Why do you think Jesus chose the cross - rather than a lighter metaphor - to describe what following Him requires?
6. In verses 28–32, Jesus tells two short parables about counting the cost - a builder and a king. What is the danger of starting to follow Jesus without first counting that cost? Have you seen this play out, in your own life or someone else's?
7. Verse 33 concludes that a disciple must "give up everything he has." Does this mean every Christian is called to sell all their possessions, or is Jesus pointing at something deeper? What is He actually asking for?
8. The message notes that Christians in many parts of the world face real persecution for following Jesus, while American Christianity has often absorbed an expectation of comfort. How might that expectation of comfort quietly reshape how we read passages like this one?
9. Jesus closes this section with a string of promises - eternal life, His abiding presence, reward in heaven, peace in the midst of trouble. Why do you think Jesus pairs such a hard call with such rich promises? Does knowing the promises change how you hear the cost?
10. Grit was defined in the message as "courage, mental toughness, an unyielding spirit in the face of hardship." Where in your walk with Jesus right now do you most need that kind of grit?

Applications

1. Is there a relationship, ambition, or comfort in your life right now that has quietly taken a higher priority than your devotion to Jesus? Name it honestly. What do you need to do to address this?
2. What would it look like this week to move your ordinary Sunday habits — scripture, prayer, worship, service - into your daily routine rather than a once-a-week practice?
3. Who is someone in your life who is currently "outside the banquet" - far from Jesus - that you could appeal to this week, in word or in deed, to move them closer to Him?
4. If following Jesus cost you real opposition this week - at work, at school, in a friendship - are you ready? What is one step you can take now to prepare your heart for that cost?

Close in Prayer

Ask God for the grit to love Jesus above every other relationship, the courage to carry your cross without turning back, and the faith to rest in His promises when the cost feels high.