

Are You All In?

“This Is The Way” Series – Part 05

Connect question: What is the best gift you have ever given? Why do you consider it the “best” gift?

Introduction: During the time spent on the above connection question, you may have noticed that certain gifts are considered “best” according to the giver based on their idea of value or the occasion for the gift.

In life our personal values may change due to circumstances, experiences, and even with age. As we look back over our lives, we discover what we once thought was necessary and crucial, no longer calls out to us. We often attach ourselves to ideas, things, or people because it seems attractive, cool, or necessary; yet we’re never fully committed or invested in the attachment or relationship. It was simply a matter of convenience, infatuation, or participating in the latest fad. Here today...perhaps gone tomorrow!

In the New Testament record, Jesus often found that those who stated that they wanted to be His followers, did not understand the level of commitment necessary to be His disciple. For many, Jesus was merely the latest fad who had some wonderful gifts to give. He was not the King who could change their life forever.

Read Luke 14:25-33

Luke 14:25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them,

Luke 14:26 “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27 And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:28 “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

Luke 14:29 Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you.

Luke 14:30 They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’

Luke 14:31 “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him?

Luke 14:32 And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away.

Luke 14:33 So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

Discussion:

Why were large crowds of people following Jesus and what about their motives prompted Jesus to state several times, “*you cannot become my disciple*”?

How should we balance our time, energy, and treasure between the needs of family and ministry to others?

How would one know that they have gotten “*out-of-balance*”?

What does Jesus mean when He tells us that we must carry a cross? Why is the cross “personal” (*your own cross*)?

Jesus states that being His follower is costly and one should not begin the journey with Him without counting the cost (verse 28).

In what ways today can discipleship be costly?

What are the potential returns or values in paying this cost?

In what ways has being a disciple cost you?

Why does Jesus call us to such radical commitment to him?

What is most important to you about discipleship and what are you most reluctant to do? What are you most afraid of?

Homework:

Who are some people that you can begin praying for right now? How could God use you to disciple them, working with them for their growth and joy in the faith?

Put into your own words what it means to be a disciple of Christ.