

Luke 14:25-15:10 — The Cost of Being a Disciple

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

³⁴ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Luke 15 — The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹ Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 14:25-15:10

1. Think about planning a major project such as renovating a basement or redoing a kitchen. How can you be sure to take into account all of the costs? What happens if you overlook something? What if the project is not completed? What will you wife, family, and friends say?
2. What does it mean to “hate” your parents, wife, children, siblings, and even your own life? (14:26 and Matthew 10:37)
3. Who was traveling with Jesus? How might they have reacted to his terms of discipleship? How do these conditions seem to you today?
4. What consequences result from not counting the costs before building? (14:28-29).
5. If a king didn’t have sufficient manpower to go to war, what was his best course of action? (14:31-32)
6. What costs do we need to count in responding to Jesus? What costs of following Jesus seem especially high to you?
7. What does Jesus short illustration about salt mean? (14:34-35)
8. The Pharisees were muttering about Jesus eating with “sinners.” Why was Jesus’ parable a good response to these Pharisees?
9. How are we like sheep? In what ways do we go astray? What do we need to do when we go astray? (15:7)
10. How does the picture of “rejoicing in heaven” over repentance make you feel?
11. What value did the woman place on each coin? Why did she look so hard for it?
12. How is a repentant sinner like a found coin? Why does God care so much about repentant sinners?
13. What do these verses in Luke mean to you (the cost of being a disciple, saltiness, and the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin)?