

**“Count the Cost”**

*Sermon Notes*

- For the joy set before him Jesus died for us, therefore for the joy set before us he calls us to die for him

*-Hebrews 12:1-2*

***\*Don't let anyone tell you any different, following Jesus is...***

1. ... \_\_\_\_\_ costly (vv.25-26, 27, 33)

2. ... \_\_\_\_\_ costly (vv.28-30, 31-32, 34-35)

**Next Week: Luke 15:1-32- “Lost & Found”**

## MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of June 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Getting Started

1. Dietrich Bonhoeffer famously wrote: “The cross is laid on every Christian...Thus is begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise godfearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”<sup>1</sup> If you know Jesus, was this how you consciously began your Christian life? If yes, explain. If not, why not?

### Digging Deeper

2. 2 Timothy 3:12 contains a promise that's true for all Christians in every age regardless of where we happen to live. What specifically does it promise? Have you ever experienced what it's describing? If so, how? If not, according to this verse, what is the explanation for that?

### Open Your Bible to Luke 14:25-35...

3. Luke notes the presence of the crowds repeatedly throughout his Gospel (33 times, to be exact!). Why does Jesus make a practice of preaching tough messages to the crowds instead of tenders ones (see also 8:4-15; 8:19-21; 11:27-32)?

4. Without a doubt, verse 26 is one of the most difficult truths Jesus teaches. Assuming there's more to this text than meets the eye (at the same time being careful not to take the edge out of his words), what does this text mean? How do we apply it and what does it look like in action?

5. Verse 27 features the second of three instances where someone cannot be Jesus' disciple. What is it? In Luke 9:23, Jesus issues a similar command but adds the word “daily”. Give some practical examples of times when it's tempting to take a 'day off' in this regard. Why is this an unwise idea?

6. In vv.28-32, Jesus offers two illustrations of aborted discipleship. Though all of Jesus' teachings are for all believers, in what sort of situations do these parables especially apply? How do you know?

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<sup>1</sup> Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*. Simon & Schuster : New York, NY. (1937) 1995. p.89.

7. In the ancient world, salt functioned as a seasoning, a preservative, and even as fertilizer. How do you think Jesus intends to use this image here (vv.34-35)? What is he warning believers of here in these verses?

8. Acts 16:31 assures us: "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." How are the truths that Jesus teaches here in Luke 14:25-35 perfectly consistent with Acts 16:31? If you find yourself stuck, consider how Paul holds both of these truths in tension in Ephesians 2:8-10 or how Galatians 2:16 and James 2:14-26 teach these truths as two sides of the same coin.