

Sermon by Jason on 7th Sep 2025

Let me speak in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please be seated. **(Pause)**

Good morning, Church and those on Zoom and I hope you are all well this morning 😊

Before we look at this Gospel passage, I just wanted to share with you a bit about my upbringing, and it might help explain a bit about why I stand here today.

I'm one of two children in our family and I have a sister who is 4 years younger than me.

I was baptised in the local Anglican church, but my parents didn't really have any faith or understanding of church.

My father worked as a salesman supplying building equipment to builders.

My mother like many of that generation stayed at home until both of us were into our teens so like many families we weren't flush with money.

At the age of 8, I was sent to the local Catholic primary school, Our Lady Help Of Christians which was run by a group of St Joseph nuns.

I went onto secondary school to be taught by the De La Salle Brothers.

Isn't it amazing that when you become a parent you really appreciate what your parents did for you?

I look back thinking what a financial commitment that was for them and what they went without to send both myself and my sister to be privately educated from such an early age.

They sacrificed a lot....

Being in a Catholic school and getting a stack of religious education was something I relished



I just loved it and was the place that allowed my faith to really grow. As I look back it let me become who I am today.

I probably got more out of it than most of the other students in the class.

In my teens I used to take myself off to Sunday church services and for me it was such an important part of my faith to regularly attend worship in the local Catholic Church.

The real cost of discipleship to me was that I grew up in a house with parents who really didn't understand it which made it difficult.

At the age of 13 I was waltzing off to church on a Sunday and they just didn't understand it or why it was important to me.

But having said that I didn't let that throw me off course or dampen what was important to me and I've continued in that vein all my adult life.

I wonder what those Nuns would say today if they could see me here today preaching this sermon?

Isn't it funny when we look back at our journeys and the paths that we have trod?

Anyway, we better get back to the Gospel.

Introduction

In Luke 14:25–33, Jesus speaks to a large crowd about what it truly means to follow Him. His words are striking, even unsettling. He doesn't sugarcoat the commitment required.

Instead, He lays out the cost of discipleship in stark terms: it involves radical loyalty, personal sacrifice, and thoughtful consideration.

This passage challenges us to examine our own walk with Christ and ask: Have I truly counted the cost?

I. The Crowd and the Call (v. 25–26)

“Large crowds were traveling with Jesus and turning to them he said: ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.’”

Jesus begins by addressing the crowd—not just His inner circle, but the masses who were intrigued by His miracles, teachings, and charisma.

But He doesn't cater to their excitement. Instead, He confronts them with a hard truth: following Him requires supreme allegiance.

The word “**hate**” here is not literal hatred, but a Semitic expression meaning to “**love less**.”

Jesus is saying that our love for Him must surpass even our deepest family bonds.

In a culture where family was everything, this was a radical statement.

Today, it still challenges us: Do we prioritize Christ above all relationships?

Is our identity rooted in Him more than in our roles as spouse, parent, child, or friend?

II. Bearing the Cross (v. 27)

“And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

To carry a cross in Jesus’ time was to walk the path of shame, suffering, and death.

It was a symbol of execution.

Jesus is not calling us to a comfortable faith but to a cruciform life—a life shaped by self-denial and obedience.

This verse reminds us that discipleship is not about convenience but commitment.

It’s not about adding Jesus to our lives; it’s about surrendering our lives to Him.

Are we willing to endure hardship, rejection, or loss for the sake of Christ?

Are we willing to die to our own ambitions, desires, and pride?

III. Counting the Cost (v. 28–32)

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

Jesus gives two illustrations: a builder constructing a tower and a king preparing for war.

Both emphasize the importance of planning and evaluation. Discipleship is not impulsive; it requires thoughtful decision-making.

The builder must assess whether he can finish the project.

The king must consider whether he can win the battle.

Likewise, we must ask: Am I ready to follow Jesus wholeheartedly? Have I considered what it will cost me—my time, my comfort, my reputation, my resources?

Jesus is not discouraging us from following Him.

He’s inviting us to do so with eyes wide open.

He wants disciples who are all in, not half-hearted followers sitting on the fence.

IV. Renouncing All (v. 33)

“In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.”

This is the climax of the passage.

Jesus makes it clear: discipleship demands total surrender.

It’s not just about giving up some things—it’s about giving up everything.

Our possessions, our plans, our preferences—all must be laid at His feet.

This doesn’t mean every Christian must live in poverty or abandon all earthly responsibilities.

But it does mean that nothing should have a hold on us stronger than Christ.

He must be our treasure, our Lord, our everything.

Application: What Does This Mean for Us Today?

1. Evaluate Our Priorities

Who or what holds the highest place in our hearts?

Is it Jesus? Or is it family, career, comfort, or control?

Jesus calls us to love Him above all.

2. Embracing the Cross

Are you willing to suffer for Christ?

This might mean enduring ridicule, making unpopular choices, or sacrificing personal gain.

The cross is not optional—it’s central to discipleship.

3. Counting the Cost

Have you truly considered what following Jesus entails?

It’s not a casual commitment. It’s a lifelong journey of surrender, obedience, and transformation.

We only need to look at the Matthew 22 vs 37-39 to see the cost of discipleship.

Jesus says “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, sole and mind**”.

And “**Love your neighbour as yourself**”. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

These words sound easy don't they?

But we live in a modern-day world that is full of uncertainty and challenges being thrown at us from all directions.

Where we truly don't know what is going to happen tomorrow and what tragic events are going to be laid at our feet that we must deal with that makes loving incredibly hard.

Our lives are full of them.

And let's be honest this can be very difficult with some of the things that go on around us to honour that commitment but that is what we are called to do as Christians.

This is a real cost of discipleship that provides challenges to us all.

4. **Live with Open Hands**

Are you clinging to possessions, plans, or relationships?

Jesus invites us to release our grip and trust Him fully.

True freedom comes when we let go and let God lead.

Let me just repeat that, “**True freedom comes when we let go and let God lead.**”

This month we are celebrating Creationtide.

Creationtide reminds us that the world is not merely a resource, but a revelation.

In the turning of leaves, the rhythm of tides, and the breath of wind, we glimpse the artistry of a Creator who made not just matter, but meaning.

To be made in the image of God is not a boast—it's a calling like our discipleship.

It means we are stewards, not owners; creators, not consumers; reflections, not replacements.

As God shaped the world with love and purpose, so too are we invited to shape our lives and communities with justice, beauty, and care.

Creationtide is a season to remember: the earth is sacred, and so are we.

Let our hands echo the divine fingerprints we bear.

Conclusion

Luke 14:25–33 is not a passage for the faint of heart.

It's a call to radical discipleship.

Jesus doesn't want fans—He wants followers.

He doesn't want part of our lives—He wants all of it.

As we reflect on these words, let us not be discouraged but inspired. The cost is great, yes—but the reward is **greater**!

To follow Jesus is to find life, purpose, eternal joy and let's remember we are all fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God.

Let us count the cost—and then, with faith and courage, take up our cross and follow Him and help bring his message of love alive for those around us.

In the name of Jesus. **Amen**.