

# The Cost of Discipleship

Scripture: [Luke 9:23, 57-62; 14:25-35](#)

Date: July 12, 2020

## Summary

Being a disciple of Jesus is costly, requiring a total and sacrificial commitment to Him. By fully devoting our entire lives to Jesus as His disciples, we are called to imitate Him who laid down His life for our salvation.

## Main Truth

Being a disciple of Christ (or Christian) requires complete and total surrender to Jesus.

## Background

The Sermon on the Mount likely presents a compilation of truth Jesus preached all over Galilee and nearby ([Matt. 4:23-25](#)). Some scholars refer to the book of Matthew as the discipleship manual of the first century, teaching Christians how to reach the lost with the gospel and teaching them to make more disciples.

## Outline and Specific Truths

1. Being Jesus' disciple requires a clear commitment ([Luke 9:23-24; 57-62](#)).
2. Being Jesus' disciple requires a total commitment ([Luke 14:25-27](#)).
3. Being Jesus' disciple requires a costly commitment ([Luke 14:28-35](#)).

## **Word Study: Discipleship**

The word *discipleship* does not appear in the Bible, but the word *disciple* appears about 275 times, depending on which English translation you are using. From the start of Jesus' ministry His followers were known by the Jewish customary term disciple. As the gospel spread from Jerusalem outward, disciples were first called Christians in Antioch as a term of derision ([Acts 11:25-26](#)), but they adopted the term Christian with joy. Disciple and Christian are synonyms. Disciples are not super-Christians, or of a higher order. Based on Jesus' Great Commission ([Matt. 28:18-20](#)), our definition of discipleship is:

Discipleship is the process by which we grow from lostness to spiritual maturity as we follow Jesus, requiring our whole life. At the same time, Christians intentionally build relationships with lost people to bring them to salvation in Christ and teaching them to grow and reproduce disciples.

Use your journal or notebook to complete these questions to keep these truths in your spiritual focus during the week.

**Truth: My clear commitment ([Luke 9:23-24](#); [57-62](#)).**

Describe your commitment to Christ in clear terms.

**Truth: My total commitment ([Luke 14:25-27](#)).**

Is your allegiance to Jesus so complete that it surpasses even your allegiance to everything and everyone in this life? Even to your own earthly family?

**Truth: My costly commitment ([Luke 14:28-35](#)).**

Have you counted the cost of following Jesus? Have you surrendered everything to Him? What are some things you are having a hard time surrendering absolute control to Him?

### Next Steps:

What adjustments do you need to make to live purposefully for Jesus' glory and not your own? What will you do this week to be salt and light to a person or family groping in darkness? How are you struggling in your battle between outward compliance to God's Word and inward conformity to God's Son?

### Spiritual Exercises for Growth

- Read the Bible every day
- Memorize Scripture – [Luke 9:23](#)
- Devote time to private prayer
- Worship & fellowship with other believers
- Invest in others (family, small group, lost people)
- Share the gospel with a lost person
- Invest yourself in another believer

Next Week's Bible Study: How to Pray, [Luke 11:1-13](#); [18:1-8](#)