

Luke 14:25-35
For the week of 2/22/26

Reflection

1. What were some of the insights for you from Sunday's sermon?

Read verses 25-26.

Read and respond to the following commentator's view (See Luke 16:13; John 12:25; Acts 5:9, 20:24; Revelation 12:11):

Discipleship means giving one's first loyalty. There is no place in Jesus' teaching for literal hatred. He commanded his followers to love even their enemies (6:27), so it is impossible to hold that he is here telling them literally to hate their earthly nearest (cf. 8:20f.). But hating can mean something like loving less (Gen. 29:31, 33; Deut. 21:15, where the Hebrew means 'hated' and not 'disliked', as RSV). Jesus' meaning is surely that the love the disciple has for him must be so great that the best of earthly loves is hatred by comparison (cf. Matt. 10:37). The listing of the nearest and dearest spells this out with solemnity. A person must not set store even by his own life (cf. John 12:25). Devotion to Christ cannot be less than whole-hearted ('Discipleship is not periodic volunteer work on one's own terms and at one's convenience').¹

¹ Leon Morris, *Luke: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 3, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 253.

2. **Application:** Is there any relationship in your life that means more than your relationship with Christ? Why or why not?

Read verses 27 and 33. (See Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, and Luke 9:23)

3. What is Jesus saying here?

4. **Jesus gives two illustrations in verses 28-32. What are the similarities? What are the differences? What point is Jesus making?**

Read verses 34-35 (See Matthew 5:13; Mark 9:50; Colossians 4:6).

5. In this illustration, what is Jesus saying to the crowd?