

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #55

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 14:25-35

Sermon Date: Oct 8, 2006

The Price is Right!

“Come on down – you’re the next contestant!” Bob Barker (how many decades has he been a game show host?!) calls your name, and you’re thrust into a TV game show where you must guess the prices of items ranging from a certain brand of toothpaste to a new car!!! You make your guesses, and after a few embarrassing rounds, you finally make it up on stage. Now you find yourself trying to guess the prices of three excursions. Two weeks in Tahiti aboard your own private schooner! (\$18,000?) An African safari – photographing rare wildlife and spectacular scenery! (\$12,000?)

A third door opens. A first-century carpenter-turned-rabbi appears, among sheep and bales of hay, shaded by vines laden with perfectly ripened grapes. “Following Jesus – duration unknown – destination a bit vague – but truly heavenly.” How would you estimate the cost? Will you guess low? After all, there’s no airfare, no hotels (no room at the inn!), ... no frills!

This week’s Bible study challenges us to count the costs of following Jesus. So ask God to give you wisdom in this, and the courage to pay the costs and to follow Christ.

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and posting at www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week’s Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>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.”</p>	

Dig Deeper:

2. The above heading, “dig deeper,” is a metaphor, right? It doesn’t mean go get a longer shovel. This week’s study passage is rich with such literary forms. Do you remember learning some of the following?

Metaphor – A figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them (*drowning in money*)

Analogy – Resemblance in some particulars between things otherwise unlike

Riddle – a mystifying, misleading, or puzzling question posed as a problem to be solved or guessed

Parable – A usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle

Hyperbole – Extravagant exaggeration (*mile-high ice-cream cones*)

- a. See how many examples of these literary forms you can find in this week’s passage. Use their first letters (eg. “**M**” for metaphor) to note places within the passage where you see instances of some of the above figures of speech.
- b. Specifically, which of the above literary forms is seen in Luke 14:26?
- c. Some find Luke 14:26 troublesome, particularly in light of other teachings about loving our families such as Ex 20:12, Eph 5:25, and 1 Tim 5:8. How does understanding the literary style used in Luke 14:26 help you understand its meaning better?

Consider this: The New Living Translation for Luke 14:26 reads as follows: “If you want to be my follower you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.”

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Count the Costs:

<p>5.a. What are some of the costs of following Jesus? Review all of Luke chapter 14 to find some of these. List them below.</p>	<p>5.b. How do each of these costs relate to you? (Experienced it already? Concerned about it? Not sure you understand it yet?)</p>

c. Looking back, what costs of discipleship have you sometimes been unwilling or unable to “pay”?

d. Looking forward, do you think it will be possible for you to “pay” all the costs of discipleship? What resources has God given you to help you in this? How can you rely on those resources more?

6. The words “disciple” and “follower” are synonyms. Therefore, we might rephrase verse 14:27 as follows:

“Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my follower.”

What similarities do you notice between this rephrasing of 14:27 and the following two verses:

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?” (Lk 14:34)

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Luke 14:35b)

7. In Jesus’ day, salt was used as a food preservative, a food flavoring, an ingredient for holy sacrifice, and even a fertilizer. Do you think Jesus was referring primarily to one of these uses in particular in Lk 14:34-35? (If so, which one, and why?) Based on that conclusion, how then do these two verses contribute to the overall message of this passage?

8. What is the single main point of Luke 14:25-35? (Try to find the one point that ties together all parts of this 11 verse passage.)

9. How does the main point of this passage apply to your life? How can you apply something you learned in this study in the week ahead?

10. As you close this study time, use the following passage, where Jesus anticipates the cost he must pay as the time of his death nears, as a template for your own prayer. Read through it first, noticing the parallels with Luke 14:25-35. Then Take one line at a time, reading it, and then sharing with God your thoughts, feelings, petitions, thanksgivings, or confessions. One additional cost of following the Lord is getting past some of the discomforts of prayer. Here is an opportunity to pay that cost – and to invest in your relationship with your Father.

“... unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies,

it remains only a single seed.

But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

The man who loves his life will lose it,

while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me;

and where I am, my servant will also be.

My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say?

‘Father, save me from this hour’?

No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!”

(John 12:24-28)