

“Heavy Truths” Luke 14:25-35

Context: Jesus inserts the hard truth of being a disciple between the previous parable that describes faulty presumptions of salvation by association and five more parables addressing salvation from a variety of perspectives. This section is part of Jesus’ radical turn toward His culminating work on earth in Jerusalem. The context of humanity’s faithlessness, their rejection of Jesus’ visitation, their ignorance of His significance, and their misunderstanding of His Kingdom provide the framework for these salvation teachings. They also provide those God lovers with wobbly faith an understanding of just what salvation is, which fulfills Luke’s purpose of steadying their faith.

Life Principle: Emotional commitments to Jesus perform; substantial commitments transform (cf. Luke 14:33).

1. Truth of discipleship’s weight - Luke 14:25-27

Jesus exaggerates contrasts in order to disclose the weight of what it means to truly follow Him as a disciple. Jesus makes it clear that He comes before parental, family, and conjugal relationships, even before self-preservation and the wants attached to all of these. He clusters these all as a single category of an abhorrent relationship should any of them take precedent over a calculated life lived under His will. Each of us has life burdens likened to a cross that must be borne. Some burdens can become heavier when one commits to follow Him and this should be reckoned with before one engages in the decision.

2. Truth of discipleship’s commitment - Luke 14:28-33

Jesus gives a call for thoughtful evaluation to the crowd in order to allay their thoughtless emotional fervor. Two parables are used to contrast a well-considered decision to become Christ’s disciple from a short-lived emotional high. Jesus concludes with His demand, a call to surrender all that is under the person’s control by relinquishing it to His control.

3. Truth of discipleship lost - Luke 14:34-35

Jesus uses the savory properties of salt to represent the preserving expressions of disciples living out a calculated life in Him. Anyone not having the savory property of a *substantially* transformed life by God’s grace does not have the preservation of self inside; nor do they help preserve the world from faster deterioration outside.

For Further Study:

- Luke 14:26 raises a really controversial question of just what Jesus meant when calling for His disciples to “hate” their family and follow Him. In cases like this it is important to consult reliable word study commentaries. As a **Bible study method**, look up Luke 14:26 in Robertson’s Word Pictures found online on our home page under “Community Life” (see bottom of that page). How does Robertson explain the meaning using Matthew 15:4? How does Matthew 10:37 provide clarity to this text? How does this text fit in with Luke 14:20? Do you place a demand that burdens any family member by getting in their way of relating to Christ? What ought you to do?
- In Luke 14:34-35, Jesus uses another parable to reinforce the point made with the two previous parables and His initial statement to the crowd. Who or what does the salt represent in this parable? What visualization did the people have when hearing this (see Robertson’s commentary on Matthew 5:13; <http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/rwp/>). Look up uses of the salt analogy in other NT passages (i.e. Colossians 4:6). How does your concept of ‘salt’ from this study apply to Luke 14:26-33?
- Meyer’s commentary interprets Luke 14:34-35 as the disciple who “through selfish interests loses His spiritual salting power and becomes excluded from the Kingdom.” We profess assurance of salvation for all who are regenerated (see our **doctrinal statement ‘On Salvation’** under **what we believe**, footnotes 14 and 15 at <http://www.gracepointfellowship.org/files/DocStmnt.pdf>). Which category best represents your active life of faith: good salt or tasteless salt?

Transformation exercise:

Mediate on Luke 14:34-35 this week. Ask the Spirit to reveal any relationship, possession, or selfish interest that threatens your commitment to Christ. Pray for the power to overcome each morning and rejoice in your witness each evening.