



Jesus says “Give Me **all**.”

He wants us to hand over all the desires that we think are **bad** as well as the ones we think are **good**. He wants to give us Himself – for His will to become ours.

What we often try to do is to keep personal happiness or **comfort** as our great aim and yet at the same time be “good.”

What we see in Luke 14 is Jesus calling us to be **disciples**.

The response to that call involves recognizing and **believing** that Jesus is Who He says He is and counting the cost of full allegiance to Him. It means losing one’s old life and finding new life in the family of God through **obeying** the will of the Father.

All of the assurances, promises, and benefits offered to mankind in the gospel and throughout God’s Word **presuppose** such a life and do not make realistic sense apart from it.

Jesus’ intent then is His intent now: to bring us to a crisis point of understanding that to be a **Christian** is to be a **disciple**.

Matthew 28:18-20

The command to go and make disciples presupposes **being** a disciple in the first place. **Before** we can make disciples we must be disciples.

The disciple, the Christian, is one who, intent upon becoming **Christ-like** in his or her faith and practice, systematically and **progressively** rearranges his or her affairs to that end.

More than once Jesus says “count the **cost**.” When Jesus said we must give up the very dearest things insofar as that proves **necessary** to go with Jesus, He was stating a simple fact – it was and is the only possible doorway to discipleship.

But the cost of non-discipleship is even **greater** than the price paid to walk with Jesus.

The correct perspective on the words of Jesus in Luke 14 is to see **following Jesus** as not only the necessity in salvation that it is, but as the very best life there can be.

If we are not – if our church is not – making **disciples**, then everything else is a waste of time.

When people look at my life do they **want** to follow Christ, not want to, or think being a Christian must not **matter** because I am pretty much just like them?

If your life is not that of a disciple, the Word of God and Jesus Himself beg you: be **reconciled** to God. You don’t have to be the Apostle Paul, you just have to be in the process Paul was in.

The **corporate** life of a church that fits God’s blueprint ought to clearly move us through life in Christ. What we do, what we emphasize, what we expect of each of us should encourage and lead **disciples** into Christ-likeness.