

# The Top Priorities of Discipleship

Luke 14:25-33

## Introduction:

- A. This preacher's greatest frustration: Inability to persuade Christians to make discipleship top priority.
- B. Jesus demands that discipleship be given top priority. (cf. vv. 15-24).

## Discussion:

### **I. Discipleship Must Come Before *Kinship*. (v. 26).**

- A. Abraham placed God above kinship. (Gen. 12:1-3; 22:1-6).
- B. A College class mate placed God above kinship - disowned by Catholic parents.
- C. We must place discipleship above kinship.
  - 1. When Bible differs from religion of kinfolks.
  - 2. When worship time comes and kinfolks drop in.
  - 3. When kinfolks need to be corrected.
  - 4. When Bible condemns a practice of kinfolks. (cf. Marriage - divorce).

### **II. Discipleship Must Come Before *Hardship*. (v. 27).**

- A. Jesus suffered hardship, so will we. (Luke 9:57, Matt. 10:24).
- B. Moses suffered hardship to do right. (Heb. 11:24-28).
- C. We must place discipleship above avoiding hardship.
  - 1. When it is righteousness versus a good job. (cf. Some United Funds, Cannot obey Acts 20:7).
  - 2. When it is righteousness versus social popularity
    - a. Popular styles versus appearance of women (or men) professing godliness (1 Tim. 2:10)
    - b. Popular teen practices. (cf. On dancing, petting) versus "keep thyself pure" (1 Tim. 5:22)
  - 3. When it is righteousness versus policy of school, community or government. (Acts 5:29).
  - 4. When it is the easy way versus the safe way.

### **III. Discipleship Must Come Before *Ownership*. (v. 33).**

- A. Jesus demands title to our property. (cf. Like bank has title to my car).
- B. Early Christians demonstrated this principle. (Acts 4:31-37).
- C. We must put discipleship above ownership:
  - 1. When it comes to providing for own. (1 Tim. 5:8).
  - 2. When it comes to helping worthy needy. (Jas. 1:27; cf. 2 Thess. 3:10).
  - 3. When it comes to preaching the gospel. (Gal. 6:6; Phil. 4:16).
  - 4. When it comes to giving to church. (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8:3).

## Conclusion:

- A. Discipleship is not for softies.
- B. Discipleship comes easy only to the genuinely converted.
- C. Discipleship begins with baptism and commitment. (Matt. 28:18-20).