



**INTRODUCTION:** In verses 16-24, our Lord gives a parable of a marriage supper to show the importance of spreading the faith. Those who were first invited but came up with excuses not to come represent Israel, who have rejected Jesus, the groom. So the groom then turns to anyone who is willing to come, representing the church. And our job, as a church, is to be the servants, who will go into the highways and byways and compel people to come to Christ.

Now it is with this as our background, in the remaining verses of Luke 14, that Jesus moves the subject to the most important element in being effective in the area of spreading the faith. We will call this the Discipleship Factor. No one has ever been effective in the area of soul winning who was not first a disciple of Jesus Christ. To be a disciple means to be under the direct mentorship, teaching and training of another. And Jesus desires that He might teach, mentor and train you personally by His Spirit and His Word. In verse 26, Jesus says, “come to me,” and then in verse 27 He says, “come after me.” A disciple is one who first learns from his master, and then becomes like his master.

*“Jesus didn’t call us to share in His popularity, but rather to share in His unpopularity.” – Adrian Rogers*

## I. THE CRUCIFIXION FACTOR (LUKE 14:26-27)

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### A. JESUS CHRIST MUST COME BEFORE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Jesus is using the technique of comparison and contrast. Our love for Christ must be so great that all other relationships appear as hate in comparison.

### B. JESUS CHRIST MUST COME BEFORE PERSONAL REPUTATION

*“Too many churches are playpens for baby Christians instead of workshops for maturing Christians.” – Paul Chappell*

*John 10:17-18, “<sup>17</sup> Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. <sup>18</sup> No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”*

## II. THE CONSTRUCTION FACTOR

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### A. YOUR TOWER MUST BE SPIRITUALLY CONCEIVED (LUKE 14:28)

In those days, those who owned a vineyard placed a tower in the middle of it. The tower was there to protect the vineyard, thus the tower was there for fruitfulness. God is telling us that our lives ought to be like a tower.

### B. YOUR TOWER MUST BE SACRIFICIALLY CONSTRUCTED (LUKE 14:28)

### C. YOUR TOWER MUST BE STEADFASTLY COMPLETED (LUKE 14:29-30)

*Luke 9:62, “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

## III. THE CONFLICT FACTOR

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### A. DISCIPLES ARE NOT COWARDS (LUKE 14:31)

When I follow Jesus Christ, I follow Him into battle. I am enlisted in the fight.

*Romans 8:31, “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”*

### B. DISCIPLES ARE NOT COMPROMISERS (LUKE 14:32)

*“In war, there is no substitute for victory.” – General Douglas MacArthur*

### C. DISCIPLES ARE NOT CAUTIOUS (LUKE 14:33)

## IV. THE COMMISSION FACTOR (LUKE 14:34-35)

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### A. SALT PRESERVES

### B. SALT FLAVORS

*Colossians 4:6, “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”*

### C. SALT BURNS

*John 15:20, “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”*

### D. SALT PENETRATES

*Matthew 5:13, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”*