**LET’S ASSESS IT!**

**Luke 14:25-34**

**DISCUSSION**

Consider each word. Briefly define each one.

Assess \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evaluate

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Examine

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do these words apply to the Christian life? If yes, briefly explain.

Do these words apply to the church, or do they have no place in the church? Briefly explain your response.

A few questions to consider:

* How do I know how I am progressing/growing as a Christ follower?
* How can I gauge if I am fulfilling Christ’s call and claim on my life?
* How might a church determine whether their work is impactful and making a difference in the lives of its parishioners, and in the community?

There should be a mechanism in place which gives us the ability to evaluate, assess, and examine how we are doing individually, and collectively. By doing so, we can better determine where changes should be made and more importantly, what changes, and when those changes should be implemented.

This study is intended to lead us into a season of serious evaluation and assessment, with the hope that St. Luke church will become all that God has called and created it to become, and do all that God has called and created it to do! Let’s Assess It!

**DISCOVERY**

This section of verses can be subtitled, “The Cost of Following Jesus.” Did you know that there is a cost associated with following Jesus?

**Matthew 10:37, 16:26; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Philippians 3:7-8**

The question which must be answered by each of us is, “Am I willing to pay that cost?”

(v. 26) Jesus says, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.”

\*What is the implication of the word “hate” in this verse?

The word hate here is not implying a negative, combative, disdain; rather, the emphasis is actually on having a lesser love.

Jesus is calling His disciples to cultivate the kind of devotion to Him that their attachment to everything else – including their own lives – would seem like hatred by comparison.

One’s loyalty to Jesus must come before his loyalty to his family or even to life itself.

The word that we can attach to this thought is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

To accomplish the goal of becoming we must prioritize our relationship with Christ. I must make discipleship my priority!!

(v. 27) Whoever does not bear his cross…

When the Roman Empire crucified a criminal or captive, the victim was often forced to carry his cross part of the way to the crucifixion site. Carrying his cross through the heart of the city was supposed to be an implied admission that the Roman Empire was correct in the sentence of death imposed on him, an admission that Rome was right and he was wrong.

So when Jesus directed His followers to carry their crosses and follow Him, He was referring to a public display before others that Jesus was right.

\*Is it acceptable, today, to publicly proclaim that Jesus is right?

The words that we can attach to this thought are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

Bearing one’s cross is a volitional act. I do it willingly; freely; without coercion.

Many religious leaders in Jesus’ day refused to do this. Sadder yet, many so called Christ followers today continue to refuse to do this.

Assuming personal responsibility for a prioritized life of discipleship is not easy. It is not the most desirable position; neither is it glamorous or publicly popular. But, when following Jesus becomes one’s priority, God promises a life of blessing despite challenge, trouble, and hardship.

**Colossians 3:23-24**

**DIRECTION**

What tool(s) do you use to evaluate, assess, examine your level of commitment to Christ?