**LET’S ASSESS IT!**

**Luke 14:25-35**

Premise: Ministry is a movement. To fulfill God’s plan and purpose for our lives and for the life of our church, we cannot become complacent or stagnant. We must get *On the Move*! To accomplish this, we must honestly examine who we are, where we are, and what we are as a ministry, and with boldness, begin making the necessary changes to fulfill God call (Ephesians 2:10).

**DISCUSSION**

We are being called to a PRIORITIZED RELATIONSHIP, as Christ followers.

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

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

When Christ is first in order of importance in our lives we will preemptively sacrifice all out of our love for Christ.

I HAVE A CROSS TO CARRY.

Questions to consider:

* What sacrifices am I making to follow Jesus?
* Am I willing to carry my cross?

Personal responsibility requires the engagement of the will.

Jesus offers three parables to highlight the high cost of discipleship:

* The Man Building a Tower (v.28-30)
  + One must carefully calculate what is required prior to taking the choice to follow Jesus.
  + Jesus’ followers must be sure they are willing to pay the full price of discipleship. This requires personal **sacrifice**.
* The King Going to War
  + We must be good **stewards** with what God has entrusted to us.
* The Salt Losing its Flavor
  + When a disciple loses his Christian character (**saltiness**), he is “good for nothing” and will eventually be “walked on” by others and bring disgrace to Christ.

This passage gives us a biblical valuation of the high cost of discipleship. As Christ-followers we must willingly sacrifice; exercise good stewardship; and maintain a consistent Christian character.

These must be regularly assessed, evaluated and examined if we are to be effective witnesses in the world.

Not only must we do this in our lives personally, but we must also do this in the life of the church, corporately.

Therefore, with the next few lessons our focus will shift from the biblical context of the high cost of discipleship to the practical application of the principles obtained from the biblical text.

**DISCOVERY**

**Assess, Evaluate, Examine**

The first principle we discovered was that as Christ-followers we should have a prioritized relationship with Him.

If this is true for you then you should also have a prioritized relationship with the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

When I use the word church I am not speaking about a physical building; rather, I am speaking of the blessed union between Christ and those who have received Him, by faith, as their Savior and Lord, and their loving fellowship with one another.

The church is characterized in Scripture in several ways:

* Brotherhood (family)
  + Psalm 133:1
  + Galatians 6:10
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + 1 John 3:1-3
* Body
  + 1 Corinthians 12:27
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + Colossians 1:18
* Building
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* Bride
  + Revelation 19:7-9
  + Revelation 21:9

\*What would you say is the tie which connects these four illustrations?

With each of these illustrations none can function without a supporting partner.

\*What does this suggest about those who make up the church?

Remember that we stated before that priority speaks to “**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**”. Thus, our collaborative fellowship should be given a high order of importance. But at what cost?

Each of us must assess, evaluate, and examine what sacrifice we are willing to make, what inconvenience are we willing to take on, what cross are we willing to carry for the good and growth of the body.

**DIRECTION**

Assess – Evaluate - Examine

What sacrifices am I willing to make for the good and growth of the body?

What inconvenience am I willing to take on for the good and growth of the body?

What cross am I willing to carry for the good and growth of the body?