

**“The Parables of the Tower Builder and Warring King” 7/25/10**

**Luke 14:25-35**

**Studies in the Parables of Jesus**

**ILL- wilderness area**

**Disciple-** someone who is a “learner” committed to a Rabbi

**What do “Christians look like?” bible in hand, cross around neck, at church**

**POINT 1-** Those who seek to be a disciple of Jesus must first count the COST

- A. The cost to be a disciple of Rabbi Jesus is very DIFFICULT  
(Matthew 7:13-14; there is no easy believism in true Christianity)
- B. The cost to be a disciple of Rabbi Jesus involves disproportionate LOVE  
(Luke 14:25-26, Matthew 10:37 – uses “love” instead of hate)
- C. The cost of be a disciple of Rabbi Jesus involves personal SACRIFICE  
 (“yes, even his own life also” 14:26b; have you surrendered your goals?)
- D. The cost to be a disciple of Rabbi Jesus requires a CROSS  
(Luke 14:27; what does the cross truly symbolize? Luke 22:42)
- E. The cost to be a disciple of Rabbi Jesus entails careful CONTEMPLATION  
(Luke 14:28-32; have you thought through the cost?; John 6:66-69)
- F. The cost to be a disciple of Rabbi Jesus demands total COMMITMENT  
(Luke 14:33, 9:62; Jesus expects us forsake ALL)
- ILLUSTRATION- “The light church” (see below)**
- G. The cost to be a disciple of Rabbi Jesus is reflective to that of SALT  
(Luke 14:34-35; do you look like salt, but are not really salt?)

*Going Deeper God wants you to ask yourself whether you are truly following Jesus!*

**Practical Considerations in being a disciple:**

- 1) Prayer**
- 2) Bible Study- are you learning?**
- 3) Sanctification- becoming more obedient**
- 4) Evangelism- sharing your faith**
- 5) Committed to Serving Him and His body**
- 6) Giving of time, talents, treasure**

*"But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62; see also 9:57-61)*

***ILLUSTRATIONS:***

The following are actual responses from comment cards given to the staff members at Bridger Wilderness Area in 1996:

Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill.

Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the areas of these pests.

Please pave the trails...Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them.

The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals.

A small deer came into my camp and stole my jar of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call...

Escalators would help on steep uphill sections.

A MacDonald's would be nice at the trailhead.

Too many rocks in the mountains.

Citation: Mike Neifert, *Light and Life* (February 1997), p. 27

ILLUSTRATION- Leadership magazine once ran a cartoon that showed a church building with a billboard in front that said: "The LITE CHURCH":

- 24% fewer commitments,
  - Home of the 7.5% tithe,
  - 15 minute sermons,
  - 45 minute worship service;
  - We have only 8 commandments—your choice.
- 
- ❖ We use just 3 spiritual laws and have an 800 year millennium.
  - ❖ Everything you've wanted in a church ... and less!"

Source: *Leadership* Summer, 1983, p. 81