

Jesus goes on to share 2 illustrations of the importance of counting the cost
would you start to build a house w/o knowing you could finish it?
would you go to war against a larger army w/o hopes of victory?

Those of you who do not give up everything cannot be my disciples
Jesus is not discouraging discipleship

Jesus is discouraging thoughtless, half-hearted discipleship

Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor the manure pile; it is thrown out

we are to be salt in society, adding flavor and being a preservative

if we lose our commitment, we lose our value and usefulness

Application

1. Jesus doesn't get nearly as upset as we do when there is a thinning out
he does when this occurs because the church messes up

but not when the marginally committed walk away; he's used to it

2. Jesus doesn't say this because he is trying to drive real seekers away

3. Jesus does this because he wants followers who are fully committed
the experience of the recent men's renewal team

Jesus knows that we are in a spiritual war with eternal results

Jesus knows that the uncommitted will likely become casualties

4. Jesus knows the deep joy of full commitment to the cause

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God - Hebrews 12:2

the 11 faithful disciples knew incredible satisfaction & joy

the experience of the recent men's renewal team

CONCLUSION

What we remember tonight is Christ's total commitment to saving us

Are you *covered in the dust of your rabbi*, walking this one-way trip?

WHAT JESUS BELIEVES ABOUT COMMITMENT

INTRODUCTION

Churches spend a lot of time/money/energy trying to attract larger crowds

Jesus spent a lot of time trying to pare down the crowds that followed him

We live in a society where low commitment seems to be the norm
corporations bailing on workers
teams and athletes bailing on each other
marriages ending in divorce
people moving from church to church in search of a better fit

Jesus made it clear that in his kingdom, high commitment was the norm

Tonight we remember his commitment, and we look at his challenge to us

LUKE 14:25-35

The Cost of Commitment

Large crowds were attracted to Jesus, but not always for spiritual reasons

If anyone comes to me and does not hate . . . such a person cannot be my disciple

didn't Jesus teach us to love, even to love our enemies?

how then does Jesus use this word "hate"?

it is to refuse to ever give anyone priority over him

it means when forced to choose, we always choose Christ

an example from China

Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple

people knew that when one carried their cross, it was a one way trip

taking up one's cross meant the ultimate in self-denial

Jesus was not interested in half-hearted followers

I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back