

The Love of God – Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— ²⁹ lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Open: Jesus mentions the word “hate” in v. 26. What do you think of the word *hate*? How have you used that word in your life?

→What words in the passage need to be explained for you?

1. Who is Jesus talking to? (v. 25)
2. Who “cannot be my disciple” in vv. 26-27?
3. Jesus’s first example is of a man building a tower (vv. 28-30). What should a man do before starting to build?
4. Jesus’s second example is of a king going to war (vv. 31-32). What should a king do before going to war?
5. Who “cannot be my disciple” in v. 33?

Apply

- What were you looking for when you decided to follow Jesus?
- When have you started something that you were not able to finish?
- What do you love the most in this world?

The command of Jesus is hard, unutterable hard, for those who try to resist it. But for those who willingly submit, the yoke is easy and the burden is light. (see Matthew 11:28-30, 1 John 5:3)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer