

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Series:** Making Him Known  
**Title:** Following Jesus  
**Text:** Luke 14:25-35  
**Speaker:** Matt Ewert  
**Date:** September 15, 2019



## WARM-UP

Share one personal "take away" from this past weekends worship service.

## DISCUSSION

**Read Luke 14:25-35**

**What stands out to you most from this passage?**

**Read the following quote:**

*"It is possible to be a follower of Jesus without being a disciple; to be a camp-follower without being a soldier of the king; to be a hanger-on in some great work without pulling one's weight. Once someone was talking to a great scholar about a younger man. He said, 'So and so tells me that he was one of your students.' The teacher answered devastatingly, 'He may have attended my lectures, but he was not one of my students.' It is one of the supreme handicaps of the Church that in it there are so many distant followers of Jesus and so few real disciples."*

—William Barclay

**Along those lines, Pastor Matt suggested that there is a qualitative difference between following Jesus (the crowds He addresses in this passage, many of whom might follow for a few hours or a few days before going back home) and FOLLOWING Jesus (the disciples, who had given up everything to follow Him over the course of years...even to His death)**

- Consider Christianity in our modern context. How would you distinguish between those who follow Jesus and those who FOLLOW Jesus? Very practically, what do those two kinds of "following" look like today?

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## DISCUSSION

**The passage in Matthew invites people to count the cost associated with truly following Jesus.**

- What do you make of Jesus use of the word "hate" in verse 26?
- In choosing to follow Jesus, in Abbotsford in 2019, do you think Christians spend much time counting the cost?
- What ARE the costs to following Jesus in our context?
- Are there costs that we try to simply ignore, or avoid "paying," in our following of Jesus? What might they be?
- As you observe those around you, and reflect on your own life, what are the roadblocks, barriers, or distractions that keep us from wholeheartedly following Jesus?

**The mission statement of South Abbotsford Church is, "Following Jesus, making Him known in all we do."** In that statement we are committed to be the kind of followers that the disciples were, rather than the crowds who followed occasionally simply out of convenience or curiosity.

- If as a South Abbotsford Church family we truly lived out that statement to its fullest, what would be the effect? Try to use words to paint the picture; what would we see, hear and experience among our church family if this was radically true of us?

**Prayer:**

**Spend time praying for our church family and for a fresh move of God among us:**

- That we would be those who gladly, and radically, "take up our cross" to follow Jesus.
- That we would live, and love, in a way that would make Jesus known to our city.