



HOME
LOVING THE CITY
LONG TERM

Home Campaign Core Group Study

Week 5: Commitment

READ: Luke 14:25-35

SERMON SUMMARY: Jesus challenges a crowd to fully count the cost of discipleship. Like a man building a tower or a king considering a battle, Jesus calls us to count the cost of our commitment before following him, because it will require us to pick up our cross and could cost us everything we have. Jesus doesn't just go after our possessions, though. He aims at our heart and affections as well. Jesus tells the crowd that in order to be his disciple, they must love him more than their family, which in that culture would have had everyone's ultimate allegiance. So too Jesus demands that we love him so much that all of our other attachments pale in comparison.

Jesus makes these extreme demands because he knows the true purpose of commitment – to set us free from the tyranny of lesser loves. We must love Jesus above all other things in this world in order to be truly free. We are called to recognize Jesus' absolute commitment to us on the Cross, and in so doing allow Jesus' love for us to elevate our love for him above all else.

1. Pastor Tommy told a brief story about a crew that failed to count the resources required for a treacherous arctic voyage. Essayist Annie Dillard compared the failed expedition to the Church in her day: "Why do we people in churches seem like cheerful, brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute?" How do we treat our faith like a "packaged tour" and fail to fully count the cost of discipleship to Jesus?
2. What relationships, priorities, or affections have your utmost love and allegiance? How are these more important to you than Jesus?
3. Pastor Tommy mentioned that Jesus demands our total commitment in order to save us from "the tyranny of lesser loves." How does renouncing our inordinate affections actually lead us to true freedom?

4. What cross is Jesus calling you to bear? What is holding you back from this deeper commitment?

PRAY: Meditate on Jesus' absolute commitment to us on the Cross and the fact that in baptism you have already died to the oppressive attachments of this world. Pray that God would expose any priorities that you have set before Jesus. Name these before God, renounce them, and ask that God would grant you the courage and enduring trust to embrace his upward call for you in Christ Jesus.

DO: Share your reflections on this sermon and the previous Home Campaign sermons with your family, close friends, or core group. Reflect together on the place Church of the Advent holds in your life and how God may be calling you to commit in new and potentially uncomfortable ways to this community.