PARABLES

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Cost of Discipleship – Following Jesus with Everything

Luke 14:25–35 & Luke 9:57–62 | Pastor Brent Foster
November 1 , 2026



Alternative Micro Church Evening

- Instead of working through these questions, consider watching one of the following films together. Both tell powerful stories of Christians who have faced tremendous opposition and persecution because of their faith in Jesus.

After watching, discuss: What challenged or inspired you most? What do these stories teach us about the cost of following Jesus? How might their experiences challenge the way we live out our faith here in Canada?

The Insanity of God – Available free on YouTube
https://youtu.be/Rdu7r_juBJU?si=99rZ_sz_dhbHj-Vp

Tortured for Christ – Available free online:
https://www.persecution.com/tfcmovieevent/

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Icebreaker

- Have you ever made a purchase or commitment without fully understanding what you were getting yourself into? Maybe you didn't read the fine print or underestimated what something would cost you. What happened?

Warming Up

This past Sunday was the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

  - What stood out to you about the challenges Christians face in other parts of the world?
  - Why do you think it's so easy for us in Canada to forget about our persecuted brothers and sisters?
  - What might we learn about following Jesus from Christians who are paying a significant price for their faith?

- Do you think following Jesus in Canada is becoming more difficult, or is it simply becoming different? What challenges do we face that Christians in other parts of the world might not?

Digging into Luke 14:25–35

Pastor Brent made the observation that Jesus takes what we might expect to find in the *small fine print* and makes it the **BOLD CAPITAL LARGE PRINT**.

- Why do you think Jesus chose to confront the large crowds with such challenging statements rather than making following him sound more attractive?
- What are some things people today might assume about following Jesus that don't line up with what Jesus actually teaches?

Read Luke 14:25–26 and Matthew 10:34–37.

Jesus makes the shocking statement that we must "hate" our family to be his disciple.

  - What is Jesus actually communicating through this hyperbole?
  - How does understanding the honour-and-shame culture of Jesus' day help us appreciate how shocking this statement would have been?
  - Families can have powerful expectations of us, even when they are well-intentioned. Can you think of situations where loyalty to Jesus might put someone at odds with the expectations of their family?
  - Have you ever experienced tension between what you sensed Jesus wanted you to do and what someone close to you wanted?

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Personal Application – What Am I Still Holding On To?
Pastor Brent shared this reflection in his sermon:
"I have found that I have the most joy, security and peace in life when I'm not holding on to my life as if it is the most important thing."

He went on to describe what carrying our cross and dying to ourselves can look like in everyday life:

- When I don't have an ego to defend.
- When I don't hold on to every offense.
- When I don't have to be appreciated for everything I do.
- When I don't have to be right or have the last word all the time.
- When I don't have a reputation to protect or need to be liked by everyone.
- When I don't have to be in control of everything.
- When I don't have to be the centre of attention.
- When I don't have to have a certain level of possessions and comfort.
- When I don't have to have the future work out a certain way.

Discuss together:
- Which of these statements resonates with you most? Which one challenges you most?
- Why do you think surrendering these things to Jesus can actually lead to greater joy, security and peace?
- What is one specific area of your life where Jesus may be inviting you to loosen your grip and trust him more fully this week?

Conclusion:
Pastor Brent concluded his sermon with the illustration of surrendering the pen and allowing God to write the story of our lives.

  - Is there an area of your life where you are still trying to hold on to the pen?
  - What might it look like to hand that pen over to Jesus this week?

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Prayer for One Another
Take some time to pray together.

- **Pray for one another:** As people feel comfortable sharing, pray specifically for the areas of surrender that have surfaced during your discussion. Ask God to give each person the courage, faith and freedom to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

- **Pray for the Persecuted Church:** Pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are paying a significant price for following Jesus. Ask God to strengthen their faith, protect them, and use their witness to make Jesus known.

- **Pray for Rob & Camille:** Continue praying for Rob and Camille as they serve for another week with For Freedom International in Thailand. Pray for their safety, wisdom, strength and effectiveness as they serve in a difficult and spiritually challenging environment.

