Sermon Discussion Questions

Series: Hope Fulfilled **Date**: November 15, 2026

The Cost of Following Jesus

Luke 14:25-35

1. The Priority of Christ (Luke 14:25–26)
Jesus makes a challenging statement about the cost of being His disciple, calling His followers to love Him above even their closest family relationships. What does Jesus mean by this? How should our love and devotion to Christ shape the way we approach our relationships with family and others?

2. Counting the Cost (Luke 14:27–28)
Jesus uses the illustration of a man building a tower to emphasize the importance of counting the cost before beginning. Why does Jesus want those who follow Him to understand the commitment involved in discipleship? How does this challenge the way people often view Christianity today?

3. Surrendering Everything (Luke 14:29–33)
Jesus compares discipleship to a king preparing for battle and concludes by saying that anyone who does not give up everything cannot be His disciple. What does it mean to surrender everything to Christ? What are some things people may struggle to surrender in order to follow Him faithfully?

4. The Danger of Halfhearted Discipleship (Luke 14:34)
Jesus describes salt that has lost its usefulness. How might this illustration relate to someone who claims to follow Christ but is unwilling to live according to His teachings? What distinguishes a committed disciple from someone who is merely associated with Christianity?

5. A Call to Examine Our Commitment (Luke 14:35)
Jesus concludes with the warning, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Why do you think Jesus ends this teaching with such a serious warning? What does it mean to truly hear and respond to what Jesus is teaching rather than simply agree with it?

Application
Jesus makes it clear that following Him requires more than simply believing in Him; it requires wholehearted commitment and surrender. As you examine your life, is there an area where you are holding back from fully following Christ? What is one practical step you can take this week to demonstrate that Christ has first place in your life?

Interpretation / Application Questions

Interpretation:

1. What does this passage teach us about God? God is the main character of the Bible, so he should be our starting point. Every passage of Scripture reveals something about God, even if he's not specifically mentioned.

2. What does this passage teach us about people? As the pinnacle of God's creation, humans are at the center of his purposes. Think through what the passage reveals about our identity as divine image-bearers.

3. What does this passage teach us about how to relate to God? Loving God with our whole being expresses itself in a variety of ways. Start by looking for reasons to praise God.

4. What does this passage teach us about how to relate to others? God created us to be in community with one another. When he saves us from our sins, he makes us part of the body of Christ. Start by considering what the passage shows about interacting with others—family, friends, roommates, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, fellow believers, non-Christians, etc.

Application

1. What does God want us to understand/think? God has given us the mind of Christ, but we are still tempted to think the way we did before we knew Christ. Deep and lasting transformation begins with the renewal of our minds. Reflect on any wrong ways of thinking that the passage exposes.

2. What does God want us to believe? We may understand a truth at an intellectual level without letting it shape how we live. Consider what false beliefs the passage reveals and what gospel promises you need to believe.

3. What does God want us to desire? This question targets the affections—the combination of desires, inclinations, feelings, and will that are the spring of our actions. God calls us to desire him above all else, but apart from the work of the gospel we will desire what's evil. Reflect on how you see the sinful desires mentioned or implied in the passage show up in your own life, as well as the kind of godly desires you should be cultivating.

4. What does God want us to do? When God's Word changes how we think, what we functionally believe, and what we desire, it will produce tangible change in what we do and don't do. Sometimes a passage gives us direct commands. But many are far less straightforward, requiring us to think carefully about specific actions.