

Jesus' Parables, Discipleship, and the Cost of Following Jesus

Jesus often taught in parables, simple stories that illustrated a spiritual truth. Some of Jesus' most famous parables are unique to the Gospel of Luke. In what we call the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus describes for his followers who would be their neighbor and what it means to be a good neighbor. Telling the Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector, he focuses on the condition of the heart and salvation by grace. Jesus' parables highlight a major theme in Luke: our call to discipleship. Throughout the book, we repeatedly find the invitation to follow Jesus Christ. Together, let's discover what Jesus teaches about the attitudes and hearts of his followers and discuss honestly what it costs to prioritize Jesus in our lives.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Which of Jesus' parables have most significantly impacted your faith journey?
- How do you explain the meaning of discipleship?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Jesus' Parables, Discipleship, and the Cost of Following Jesus](#)

READ [Luke 10:25-37](#), [Luke 18:9-14](#), [Luke 5:1-11, 27-32](#), [Luke 9:57-62](#), [Luke 14:25-33](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Reflecting on Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan in [Luke 10:25-37](#), host Darrell Delaney said the law expert who asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" was trying to find a "loophole" to justify not loving one's neighbor as oneself. Do you think Christians today are guilty of this, too? What about you? Has the Holy Spirit ever convicted you of trying to find a loophole for obeying God and following Jesus?
- Are there social or cultural boundaries you find especially challenging to cross?
- As Darrell and host Scott Hoeszee closed their study of Jesus' Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector in [Luke 18:9-14](#), they pointed out the danger of the Pharisee's self-righteousness. Scott said, "It is not just other people who need grace...we all need grace...We need to remember that grace is just as much for us as for anybody else." When do you think we are most susceptible to forgetting our reliance upon God's grace, like the Pharisee? What can we do to guard against this?
- As he discussed what the disciples had to leave behind to follow Jesus, Darrell said, "Discipleship is not about adding another thing to your life. You have to actually re-prioritize your life if you are going to follow Jesus." How is this consistent or inconsistent with what you've been taught about discipleship? Is this re-prioritizing a one-time occurrence, or will you need to do it multiple times during your faith journey? Why?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 22:34-40](#), [Philippians 3:1-11](#), [Matthew 10:16-31](#)

CONCLUSION

The parables of Jesus reveal godly wisdom about the condition of our hearts and what it looks like to reflect Jesus in our daily lives. The themes Luke emphasized as he curated these stories teach us about following Jesus, but also make it clear there is a significant cost associated with that choice, sometimes an immense cost that is well worth it. Spend some time in prayer, giving thanks to God for Jesus' teachings and for the Gospels that guide us. Thank God for not leaving us to flounder on our own, but inviting us to live out the good news of Jesus Christ with our whole lives.

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