

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////



This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just "to know" but to "act upon what we know." (His Word, Our Walk!)

We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!

1. What big decisions or purchases have you made that you had to first sit down and count the cost of before moving forward?
2. How did Jesus define the cost of following Him?
3. Why did Jesus challenge anyone who would follow Him to consider the cost first? How do we apply this challenge in our daily walk with Jesus?
4. What have you given up in order to follow Christ?
5. Are there things keeping you from Jesus that you need to bid farewell? What are they? What is the consequence of not letting go?

Brian Glunt writes about investing his life in God's call to Thailand...

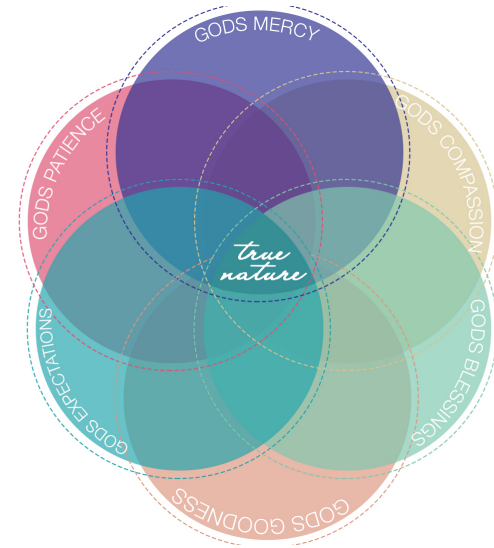
I was in customer service. Every year I got a raise or promotion. I thought things were going well, but I was putting my security in personal achievements. When the economy turned sour, I had to ask myself, "What is my focus in life?"

I had to choose if I was going to look for a new job or not, but we knew we would always live with the regret of not pursuing this opportunity...what Christ called us to do. So we chose to do the thing that made us uncomfortable.

It was small steps first. Going out into the community to simply serve food. Taking a mission trip and then leading trips myself. When the time came, it wasn't a huge giant leap to go to Thailand.

So many people say, "We could never do that". But we would have said the same thing 6 years ago. Be open to what God is laying on your heart.

Brian and Rachel Glunt the their children, Lilly, Curtis, and Lucille, leave for Thailand in August. We will be commissioning them on the weekend of July 30 and 31.



July 2-3, 2016 | God's Expectations | Luke 14:25-34 | Steve Fish

Luke 14:25a Large crowds were traveling with Jesus,

Jesus was moving toward Jerusalem. He would never pass this way again.

Luke 9:51 As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Luke 11:53 When Jesus left there, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, 54 waiting to catch him in something he might say.

Luke 12:49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!"

Luke 14:1 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

Jesus' teachings and example were intensified by the finality of His journey. His call to discipleship after being in the home of the prominent Pharisee of Luke 14 was meant to penetrate any casual pursuit of His invitation to follow Him.

- **Jesus defined the cost for anyone who will follow Him.**
- **Jesus challenged anyone who would follow Him to estimate or consider the cost.**

1.) God expects us to say yes by saying no.

Every time we say no to something we are saying yes to something else.

Luke 14:25b and turning to them he said: ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters —yes, even his own life—

he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

- To what are you saying no in order to follow Jesus?

2.) God expects us to invest ourselves with the end in mind.

Luke 14:28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

The question of successful discipleship does not ask where you started but where you intend to finish.

- Record for yourself an account of your life, where are you investing your life?

- To what end does the current life investment point?

3.) God expects us to totally surrender.

Luke 14:31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

God has given each person the one thing needed to follow Him - the **ability** to surrender everything to His Lordship.

Jesus' call to 'give up everything' does not simply mean to abandon earthly goods.

Like one who carries a cross, you must bid farewell to all you have or hang on to for identity or security other than Christ.

- To what do you need to bid farewell in order to fully follow Jesus?

Jesus offered a final consideration.

Luke 14:34 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The consequence of relying on "easy believism" or "cheap grace" is severe. Jesus has taught us how to follow Him. He leaves us no room to follow Him by our measure.