

*Special Message****Jesus First: The Heart of Discipleship****Luke 14:25-35*

Introduction: Jesus identifies three common things that compete for first place in our affections. Then he challenges his disciples that he, *and he alone*, must be the sole occupier of first place in our hearts...no other competitors.

1. BEFORE OTHERS – To be Jesus’ disciple he must come before every human relationship, including those closest: our families.

Luke 14:25-26

- A. Jesus’ statement shocked everyone and probably left them confused.
- B. The word hate is a very strong figure of speech. Do we take it literally?
- C. Why should Jesus come before our closest relationships?
- D. Application.

2. BEFORE SELF – He’s got to come before our most passionately held personal agendas. *Luke 14:27-32, 34-35*

- A. Jesus uses the picture of carrying our cross. 14:27
- B. Jesus gives us two illustrations to help us count the cost. 14:28-32
- C. But we also have to count the cost of *not* being a disciple. 14:34-35

3. BEFORE POSSESSIONS – Jesus must come before all our personal possessions. *Luke 14:33*

- A. Jesus seems to be very harsh in this verse. 14:33
- B. How did the disciples apply this?
- C. How do we apply it?

