

▼ **Luke 14: The Cost of Being a Disciple**
Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday April 27, 2025
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▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are finishing Luke 14.
- We will break into life group breakout rooms after the message.

▼ **Thoughts**

▼ **Jesus and Justice Sunday . . .**

- Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV) - The Sheep and the Goats

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

▼ Overview

▼ In today’s message we will do the following:

- Revisit Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD).
- Read our passage: Luke 14:25-34.
- Reflect on the cost of discipleship.
- Contrast the cost of discipleship with MTD.
- Discover how the 7 “F”s help us to count the cost of discipleship.
- Watch a brief video on being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Listen to a brief podcast episode about “The Friendship Bench”.

▼ Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

▼ Principal Elements

- 1) A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5) Good people go to heaven when they die.

▼ Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers” by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- ▼ According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church”:
 - “The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . .”

▼ Luke 14:25-35 (NIV) - The Cost of Being a Disciple

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 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. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

▼ Parallel / Related Passages

- Matthew 10:32-39 (NIV)

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to turn

“ ‘a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law —
a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

- Luke 9:21-26 (NIV)

Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

- John 12:23-26 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

- ▼ **The Cost of Being a Disciple**

- ▼ Large crowds follow Jesus. He explains what it costs to follow him:

- Hate father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters.
- Hate your own life.
- Carry your cross and follow Jesus.
- Jesus tells would be disciples to count the cost before following him.

- ▼ The disciples are the "salt of the earth"

- Salt is a preservative.
- In this context "losing saltiness" corresponds to abandoning our original commitment.

- Jesus wants much, much more from us than MTD!

- ▼ **What shall we do?**

- ▼ **Focus on the Message**

- ▼ Embrace Jesus' Mission

- ▼ Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) - The Lord's Spirit Is Upon Me

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

- ▼ **Setting the Stage**

- Jesus returns to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.
- Jesus teaches in their synagogues, everyone praises him, news spreads.
- ▼ Jesus attends Synagogue on the Sabbath
 - He reads the Jubilee passage from Isaiah 61 and announces that it is now fulfilled.
 - The people are amazed at the gracious words (words of grace) he is speaking. They cannot reconcile his present ministry with his previous identity - Jesus from around the way.
 - This is the foundation for the rest of this gospel and thus for today's passage!
- ▶ Key Previous Lessons.
- ▼ Feed on the Life of Jesus
 - Are you "worded up"?
 - Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17
 - Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?
- ▼ What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?
 - The Gospel of John in April (4/1 - 4/21)
 - The Gospel of Matthew in May (5/1 - 5/28)
 - The Gospel of Mark in June (6/1 - 6/16)
 - The Gospel of Luke in July (7/1 - 7/24)
- ▼ For May this means:
 - Read Matthew 1 on May 1.
 - Read Matthew 2 on May 2.
 - Read Matthew 3 on May 3.
 - etc.
- As you read, write down any questions you have.
- ▼ Ask yourself the following questions:
 - What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
 - What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
 - What did I find challenging about this chapter?
 - What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
 - Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ **Family Up**

- Join a life group.
- Work with the members to make it safe, healthy, and effective.
- Read the Bible in community.
- Hear God's voice in community.

▼ **Flow in the Spirit**

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Flow in the gifts of the Spirit.
- Be led by God's Spirit as a lifestyle.

▼ Video

- [Derek Prince: Do This And You will Certainly Receive The Holy Spirit](#) - YouTube (00:04:18)

• **Face Your Problems**

• **Farm Your Land**

• **Find Your Purpose**

▼ **Fulfill Your Mission**

- [TED Talk: Why I train grandmothers to treat depression](#) (00:12:14)
- [WBUR Here & Now: Through 'The Friendship Bench,' grandmothers address a mental health crisis](#) (00:09:52)

► **Know the story**

▼ **Life Group**

▼ **Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)**

- [Icebreaker](#)

- **Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)**

▼ **Word - Discussion Questions**

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- **What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?**
- **What does this passage mean to you?**
- **How will you apply this passage this coming week?**

▼ **Witness**

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

▼ **Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.**

- ▼ What level are you at with these?
 - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
 - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- **Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.**



The Cost of Being a Disciple

Sunday April 27, 2025



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Thoughts



- Jesus and Justice Sunday . . .



Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV) 1 of 2

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’



Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV) 2 of 2

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

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Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD)

Principal Elements

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Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD)

- Introduced in the 2005 book “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers” by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church”:
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Luke 14:25-35 (NIV) Cost of Discipleship

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 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. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

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For I have come to turn

“ ‘a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law —
a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

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Luke 9:21-26 (NIV)

Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.



John 12:23-26 (NIV)

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.



The Cost of Being a Disciple

Large crowds follow Jesus. He explains what it costs to follow him:

- Hate father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters.
- Hate your own life.
- Carry your cross and follow Jesus.

Jesus tells would be disciples to count the cost before following him.

The disciples are the “salt of the earth”

- Salt is a preservative.
- In this context “losing saltiness” corresponds to abandoning our original commitment.

Jesus wants much, much more from us than MTD!



What Shall We Do?



Focus on the Message

Family Up

Flow in the Spirit

Face Your Problems

Farm Your Land

Find Your Purpose

Fulfill Your Mission



Focus on the Message



Embrace Jesus' mission

Feed on the life of Jesus



Embrace Jesus' Mission: Luke 4:14-21

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



Embrace Jesus' Mission (continued)

- Jesus returns to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.
- Jesus teaches in their synagogues, everyone praises him, news spreads.
- Jesus attends Synagogue on the Sabbath
 - He reads the Jubilee passage from Isaiah 61 and announces that it is now fulfilled.
 - The people are amazed at the gracious words (words of grace) he is speaking. They cannot reconcile his present ministry with his previous identity - Jesus from around the way.
- This is the foundation for the rest of this gospel and thus for today's passage!



Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of John in April (4/1 – 4/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in May (5/1 - 5/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in June (6/1 – 6/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in July (7/1 – 7/24)



Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)

For May this means:

- Read Matthew 1 on May 1.
- Read Matthew 2 on May 2.
- Read Matthew 3 on May 3.
- etc.



Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)

As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?



Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)

Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
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- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
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Family Up



- Join a life group.
- Work with the members to make it safe, healthy, and effective.
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- Hear God's voice in community.



Flow in the Spirit



- Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Flow in the gifts of the Spirit.
- Be led by God's Spirit as a lifestyle.



Be Filled With The Spirit





What Shall We Do?



Focus on the Message

Family Up

Flow in the Spirit

Face Your Problems

Farm Your Land

Find Your Purpose

Fulfill Your Mission



Grandmothers Treating Depression





Here & Now: The Friendship Bench





Life Groups



Word - Spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Witness (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page “Big Blueprint” diagram.
- What level are you at with these?
 - Are you a “wanderer”, “follower”, “achiever”, or a “leader”?
 - What’s your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you’ve been identifying.



Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service April 27, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (4/30) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) May 4, 2025
- Sunday Connection May 4, 2025 12n - 2pm
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/7) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 11, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/14) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 18, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/21) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service May 25, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (5/28) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom



Life Groups



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