

**South Arm United Church 04 Sept 2022**  
**Luke 14:25-33**

**Intro**

Fame

“You have big dreams. You want fame. Well fame costs. Well right here is where you start paying – in sweat”.

Inspiring to see people go for something not everyone does.

Popular shows – X Factor, Got Talent..

Love to see people inspire. Love to see people with big dreams going for it, no matter the cost. It's their opportunity for a big break and helps us believe, Just maybe – dreams come true.

And I was wondering, Do all great things in life, have a cost?

Putting a nice meal on table, giving to causes we believe in to even being in a relationship with somebody – there is a cost.

**Today's Text --- Hate?**

The opening words of today's scripture are challenging. Whoever comes to me and does not hate father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters and even life itself cannot be my disciple. Pardon me?!

How could Jesus say these words?

It doesn't make sense,

It doesn't make sense that Jesus would say to Literally hate anyone.

For God is love, grace, mercy, compassion, champion of the oppressed, healer, friend, Creator and so many beautiful names and attributes.

Hate does not fit into this picture.

**Matthew 5:17** Jesus tells us that He did not come to abolish the law but to perfectly fulfill the law.

I'm recalling the **10 Commandments**

The 1<sup>st</sup> 4 concern our relationship to God & the following 6 - our relationship with 1 another and #1 in those 6 is Honour your Mother and Father.

So 'hate' mother, father etc cannot possible be what Jesus meant.

In **Matthew 5:17** Jesus says, I did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill the law  
Jesus as the perfect Jew would be fulfilling the law and in the top 10 is honour your mother  
and father so can hate really be what is meant here?

**Matthew 6:33** – Jesus says, Put 1<sup>st</sup> the Kin-dom of God and all else will be provided to you

It's an invitation. A beautiful, holy, arms open wide, unconditional love invitation.

Put 1<sup>st</sup> the Kindom of God and all else will be provided.  
It's a call to be Jesus' disciples/students/apprentice/followers

To be a **disciple** is to learn and follow in the footsteps of a Great in their craft – and we do  
just that with Jesus – we study Jesus life, Jesus way, Jesus words and we use them as  
inspiration, fuel and our compass in the world

And Jesus says, **Do you trust me?**

Do you trust me to leave your family, your possessions and all you cling to in this world – to  
follow me? Knowing that the experience, the lessons and the rewards will be great – but it  
will cost you something up front.

Will you follow me, no matter the cost? It could be family, friends, time, resources – we just  
don't know what the cost will be. Stepping out in faith where J is calling is a choice. And we  
know it might cost us something, but the payoff, the reward will be SO much greater.  
What a beautiful gift to follow Jesus and share in the riches of God's promises – but it will  
cost us something.

**Will you pick up your cross and follow?** Not just once, but each day anew? It's a challenge.  
A mighty invitation. It's a Debbie Allen challenge – you want this? It costs. And right here is  
where you start paying, in sweat.

Some said Yes and had their lives turned upside down for the better.

Others, count the cost and find it's just too much.

I think of Jesus encounter with the rich man. **The rich man** said, what do I need to do to  
inherit eternal life? And Jesus said, follow all the commands. The man said, I do.  
And Jesus went to the core of what the man in the story held most dear – his riches, a sense  
of earthly security and power – and said, will you give up even that – to benefit the poor and  
trust me?

And the man in the story just couldn't do it. It's too big a cost for him.

We are all invited as we encounter Jesus to decide what impact that will make on our lives.

What we cannot do, is leave the same as if we never encountered the Holy.

Some say yes.

Some say no.

They always have and the still do today.

Will you leave everything and everyone behind if it comes to that?

Today

And tomorrow

And tomorrow after that?

Will you say yes, I will follow you whatever the cost.

Day by day – knowing that your Love, grace and mercy, all your promises are more than sufficient for me and you will provide and be the light of my world forever.

May we be the people who say yes whatever the cost – I will pursue this one holy wonderful god whatever the cost – saying whatever it is, it's worth it.

May we be the people who say yes, take up our cross and follow.

May it be so,

Amen