The Top Priorities of Discipleship
Luke 14:25-33

Introduction:
   A. This preacher’s greatest frustration: Inability to persuade Christians to make discipleship top priority.
   B. Jesus demands that discipleship be given top priority. (cf. vv. 15-24).

Discussion:

I. Discipleship Must Come Before Kinship. (v. 26).
   B. A College class mate placed God above kinship - disowned by Catholic parents.
   C. We must place discipleship above kinship.
      1. When Bible differs from religion of kinfolks.
      2. When worship time comes and kinfolks drop in.
      3. When kinfolks need to be corrected.

II. Discipleship Must Come Before Hardship. (v. 27).
   A. Jesus suffered hardship, so will we. (Luke 9:57, Matt. 10:24).
   B. Moses suffered hardship to do right. (Heb. 11:24-28).
   C. We must place discipleship above avoiding hardship.
      1. When it is righteousness versus a good job. (cf. Some United Funds, Cannot obey Acts 20:7).
      2. When it is righteousness versus social popularity
         a. Popular styles versus appearance of women (or men) professing godliness (1 Tim. 2:10)
         b. Popular teen practices. (cf. On dancing, petting) versus “keep thyself pure” (1 Tim. 5:22)
      3. When it is righteousness verses policy of school, community or government. (Acts 5:29).
      4. When it is the easy way versus the safe way.

III. Discipleship Must Come Before Ownership. (v. 33).
   A. Jesus demands title to our property. (cf. Like bank has title to my car).
   C. We must put discipleship above ownership:
      1. When it comes to providing for own. (1 Tim. 5:8).
      2. When it comes to helping worthy needy. (Jas. 1:27; cf. 2 Thess. 3:10).
      3. When it comes to preaching the gospel. (Gal. 6:6; Phil. 4:16).
      4. When it comes to giving to church. (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8:3).

Conclusion:
   A. Discipleship is not for softies.
   B. Discipleship comes easy only to the genuinely converted.
   C. Discipleship begins with baptism and commitment. (Matt. 28:18-20).