

**Jesus v Sansabelt Slacks**  
**A Call to be Uncomfortable**  
**Luke 14:25-35 (NASB)**

Luke 14:25-35

[25](#) Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, [26](#) "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

- This is an effort to calm the fervor of the crowd down - Remember, there have already been instances where they witnessed great miracles (John 6) only to be given a stunning statement of cost
  - In other words, to follow Jesus we must really understand what exactly does it mean to follow Jesus?
  - See John 6 reference down below
- Hate isn't the literal translation, it actually means to 'love less'.
  - Do we love Jesus more than anyone else?
  - And not just anyone, anything?
    - As I get older, this is, at times, a harder question to answer.
      - I find comfort to be a battle. Hence the title reference, "Jesus v Sansabelt Slacks."
        - Sansabelt was a type of slack that was the gold standard of comfort in the 60's. While initially stylish, it has now become synonymous with comfort over style.
        - Same with my own life. As I become older, I become less open to new ideas, concepts and become more ingrained in my comfort.
        - There's no doubt when we are young, we live far more naturally adventurous lives.
      - Jesus knows this. He knows we will naturally go to the comfortable and frankly, Jesus and comfort are not compatible. They aren't even close. That's why, for me, what's comfortable in life is often in direct opposition to what Jesus desires.
      - As a result, Jesus challenges those following him to understand what it means to 'follow him.' To 'take up the cross' if you will. He does this with 4 different analogies. Each one of these can also be used to help us measure up different aspects of our life: the heart, soul, mind and strength.

Matthew 21:37 -

[34](#) But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. [35](#) One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him, [36](#) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" [37](#) And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' [38](#) "This is the great and foremost commandment.

From <<https://biblehub.com/nasb/matthew/22.htm>>

- This will be the measuring stick for comparison. When Jesus responds to the question asked, he makes sure there is no room for ourselves when loving God. This forces us to examine each part and see where we stack up. So, let's use this same measuring stick to analyze these verses.

### **The Soul (Spiritual Evaluation)**

27“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

- An interesting analogy given He hasn't been crucified as of yet. Yet the crowd was most certainly familiar with this reference. According to scholars, just a few years earlier, hundreds of followers of Judas the Gaulonite were crucified, as was the standard Roman practice.
- Jesus is using the extreme, or so it seems, to help others understand how difficult it is to be a follower of Christ.
  - Of course, we know that this analogy wasn't quite as extreme as it might have seemed. Not only did Jesus die in this most horrific of ways, tradition tells us that at least 2 other disciples were also crucified and that possibly only one, John, died of natural causes. The rest died in some pretty horrific manners.
  - So, Jesus NEEDS us to understand the cost. And he understands that it is easy for us to be swayed to fanaticism...especially on an emotional and spiritual level. Those can be very tightly intertwined.
  - On the spiritual aspects, what are we willing to die for? Have we made sure that what we believe to the point of death is the one true way?
    - This is always an interesting wrestling match. Let me give you an example of what I mean: I am the way, the truth, the light. No one comes to the father except through me.
      - If we're honest, this verse should make us a little uncomfortable. After all, it's exclusionary and likely means that people we truly love will not get into eternity.
    - Here's another: Today you will be with me in paradise
      - A murderer, thief...whatever he was, he did NOTHING to get into heaven except acknowledge Jesus. This means that the most detestable people you can think of now and in history can very well be in heaven.
  - So, all of this to say: you best make sure that your point of decisions in life better not be anything that will fade away over time. Make sure your Spiritual Compass is pointed in the One True North.

### **The Heart (Emotional Evaluation)**

[28](#)“For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? [29](#)“Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, [30](#)saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

- When building anything, common sense tells us we need at the most basic level, a plan, money and time.
  - In our modern world, two of these are pretty big deals.
    - We always hear that 'Time is Money,' emphasizing how limited both resources are. The plan is the easy part. But Money and Time? They're precious.
    - In fact, because these are so valuable, we can actually use these to gauge our commitment level to Christ.
      - Here's an assignment: take a look at your bank account. See what you spend your money on. That will tell you what you value most in life.
        - Now, you may say, hold on Jeramy, I go through seasons and I do have certain expenses that I have to maintain.
          - OK, fair enough. But WHY do you have to maintain them?
            - If we can't fully explain why we are investing so much time and money into something temporal, our priorities are out of whack.
            - For example: why do we (as in my family) spend so much money helping our daughter through college? It's simple: we want our daughter to not graduate with a lot of debt. Why? It puts her financially free so she can invest in God's kingdom rather than the kingdom of Student Loans. There's an eternal significance to our financial investment.
          - In other words What we value is revealed by our spending habits and time commitments.

Theologian Matthew Henry said it this way,

"All that take upon them a profession of religion, undertake to build a tower."

From <<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/luke-14.html>>

- Matthew Henry is right, a tower will be built, but for what foundation? Remember the tower of Babel? It was built on pride and self-achievement. Christ challenges us to build a foundation that goes deep into him.
  - These things of value? They are our towers. But which one is the biggest?
  - What we value decides where we go and what we do. If we don't value it, it doesn't get done.

## The Mind (The Strategic Evaluation)

[31](#)“Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand *men* to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? [32](#)“Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.[33](#)“So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

- This is not the charge of the light brigade - a futile gesture of nobility and sacrifice that ultimately has no bearing
- Military Commanders throughout history have recognized the need for information or intelligence to assess the situation and adjust accordingly. When history shows us a military disaster, inevitably it can be traced back to faulty information.
- Jesus is challenging us to fight for something far more valuable as such, are we truly preparing ourselves for this fight? What do we spend our intellectual energies on?
- I had a conversation with someone recently who admitted to me that their first filter of decision making is not God's word. My response was simple: why would you put your trust in anything but? After all, everything else fades away.
  - So, why was God not their first filter? Simple, because what their mind was being filled with isn't God centered. In their attempt to understand the world, they have allowed the world to corrupt.
  - We have to be strategic in what we see and hear, always with a filter of God first. This doesn't mean you can't see things. Instead, it actually gives you freedom to see things BETTER.
    - See first the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness

## The Strength (Works Evaluation)

[34](#)“Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? [35](#)“It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

From <<https://biblehub.com/nasb/luke/14.htm>>

- This is not the same pure salt we use today. They relied on salt that came from the Dead Sea which was mixed with other chemicals. In this unpurified state, it was possible for salt to lose its flavor. This is a pretty good analogy for someone who has divided loyalties between Christ and the world. We become essentially useless and aren't even good for fertilizer. It paralyzes us.
- Two thoughts on this:
  - First - salt is useless if it's not used. We know the value of salt today, and they were no different then. Salt heals. Salt provides durability and was even used for currency. Ever heard the term, worth his salt? This was a reference when Greeks would trade slaves for salt. Even wars were fought and won by salt. The Dutch revolt over Spain was won in part

because of a blockade of a crucial salt mine forcing bankruptcy and even the French Revolution was inspired, in part, because of a salt tax that was being levied.

- Second - This isn't the only time Jesus used Salt as a reference. That's because He knew the value salt played in society. So, in Matthew 5:13, Jesus makes a similar reference but on a more personalized level:

**13** “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

From <<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5&version=NIV>>

- This is NOT saying works will save us. Instead, this is an admonishment that we cannot sit idly by and watch people dying eternal deaths. We must be completely used up.

The disciples understood the cost of following Jesus. They had decided that they wanted their lives to be worth something. As a result, they also recognized that everything else had lost its worth. In John 6:60-69, the disciples express this very sentiment.

**60** On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

**61** Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? **62** Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! **63** The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. **64** Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. **65** He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

**66** From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

**67** “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

**68** Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. **69** We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

From <<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6&version=NIV>>

David also recognized this. In Psalm 73, he tells us

Psalm 73:24-26 -

24 With Your counsel You will guide me,

And afterward receive me [a]to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven *but You?*

And [b]besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

26 My flesh and my heart may fail,

But God is the [c]strength of my heart and my portion forever.

From <<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+73%3A23-26&version=NASB>>

*So, what about us? Do we really understand the cost of following Jesus? If we're honest, I'd say probably not. At least, not until he calls us to make good on our words. My family is standing here today as a result. Our whole lives have been in Texas. Friends. Family, everything we know and love is 1200 miles away. And why is that? Because when my wife and I were discussing next steps in ministry, we were willing to go where God*