

Good morning! Have you ever come across something you didn't like when you were reading the Bible? I have. The Bible is full of stuff we really like but it has some passages that we really don't like. I recently had a conversation with a dear friend who was struggling with passages from the Old Testament. Sometimes it's very difficult to reconcile what we think we know about God from the New Testament with things God said and did in the Old Testament, isn't it? By the way, I'm not full of wisdom on this subject. What I *do* know is that God is always perfect in His love and in His judgment. Last week I was reading along and minding my own business when I came across today's good example. Let's read it together:

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

### **Luke 14:33**

What? How do you like that passage? When I read it, I thought, "Well, that can't be right. That must be a bad translation. Jesus wouldn't say something like that, would He? I thought *anybody* could be Jesus' disciple." I decided to look it up in some different translations. Here's one: "*So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.*" How about this one? "*In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not say good-bye to all his possessions cannot be My disciple.*" Jesus doesn't say, "Give whatever you can afford and you can be My disciple." Or, "At least give a little. You should give more but you'll still be My disciple." No, He says if we don't give it all we cannot be His disciples. *Cannot*. Everything is on the table. But Lord, I've worked my whole life to have nice things. *Cannot*. But at least let me have my health. *Cannot*. But what about my good friends? *Cannot*. I think I have a lot to learn about the way this passage works practically in my life but I know one thing---God intends for us to make everything we hold dear available to Him. How about you this morning? What will it cost for you to truly be Jesus' disciple? What are you holding back?