

“Take Up Your Cross” // Luke 14:25–35; Luke 9:57–61 // In Step #16

Luke 14, if you have your Bibles: I want to talk with you this weekend about Jesus’s staggering invitation to follow him and whether you’ve actually responded to it. As I’ve been telling you, at the end now for several weeks, I am going to ask **every one of you who is willing** to commit, or recommit, to being a disciple.

But, **I’m going to spend the next 30 minutes trying to talk you out of making that commitment.** Seriously. Because that’s what I think Jesus does at the end of Luke 14.

Vs. 25: Jesus looks around and sees great crowds following him. At this point in his ministry, his message is catching on. His reputation for miracles gathers crowds everywhere he goes. His approval rating is off the charts. His stock is soaring.

And, vs. 26, Jesus looks at the crowd and says, **vv, 26-27** “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. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

And, **v. 33**, “Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” If you underline stuff in your Bible, underline those words, “renounce all that he has.” *All that he has*. Then, star that word “all.” All. Everything. Nothing is excluded from Jesus’ rule over our lives.

Now, I have to imagine Jesus’ disciples were pretty bewildered at this. They had been enjoying the big crowds following Jesus, and they were like, “Jesus. You can’t gain momentum for a movement telling people they are required to hate their parents and children and brothers and sisters. That’s now how you rally the troops, Jesus. That’s not how you get people on the Jesus bus. Nobody’s going to buy into Team Jesus when you tell them they have to renounce even loyalty to their families.”

But here’s the thing: Jesus wasn’t trying to sell anything. He’s not trying to build a megachurch. Quite simply, he has an offer of salvation more valuable than everything else on earth, and it’s only given on his terms.¹

Here’s my question for you: What do you think it means to be Jesus’ follower? Do you really believe what he says here?

I ask that because we have--in America in general and the South in particular--adopted a reduced version of Christianity. For us, becoming a Christian means embracing a certain creed, adopting a set of morals, and commencing on a set of religious practices. For Jesus, however, becoming his follower was something so radical, so total, that by comparison, every other commitment compared to it looked like hate.

BTW, I know that statement “Hate your father and mother” throws some of you. You say, “*I thought it was God’s will for us to love our families...*” Yes, but Jesus is speaking comparatively. He is saying he deserves a

¹ Bryan Loritts, Matt. 10:16-25, “The Cost of Discipleship.”

Works consulted:

“How to Hate Your Parents” (Luke 14:25–26), Tim Keller

“What the Gospel Demands” (Luke 14:33), David Platt

“The Cost of Discipleship” (Matthew 10:16–25), Bryan Loritts

loyalty so strong that in comparison to it, every other relationship, even our most intimate ones, *seem* like hate. **Think of it like this:** If you have a pet, I imagine you love that pet. Unless it's a cat and then you are just waiting out the time for it to die so you can get a dog. Or a gerbil. Or hermit crab. Anything. But for any other pet, you love that pet and you're committed to it on some level. Some of you spend a lot of money taking care of it. **But I would imagine that as committed as you are to that pet,** your love for your pet pales in comparison to your love for your children, or your spouse, or a best friend, or a parent. (If you just had to think about that, that's not good!) But for most of you, if you had some situation where you had to choose between the wellbeing of your pet or the life of your kid, it's no contest. You're committed to your pet, but compared to the intensity of your commitment to your child, your commitment to your pet *seems* like hate.

That's the loyalty Jesus both deserves and demands. Our loyalty to him has to be so strong that in comparison to him, every other relationship in our lives, even our most intimate ones, seem like hate. Period. Full stop. And if you're not willing to give him that, Jesus says, then you got no business following him.

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? (You don't want to get halfway done and not finish). 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Before you come to Jesus, you have to think, "Am I ready to go all the way with him?" Coming to Jesus is not something to do just because it makes you feel good, or because it adds a missing piece of your life. **You need to ask yourself if you're ready to go the full distance with him.** You see, back then, and today, a lot of people are initially attracted to Jesus because of what he can do for them. He can provide relief from your burdens. Grant you forgiveness of your sins. Take you to heaven. Give you help in your marriage and family. And that's worth some level of devotion, you think. But here's the thing, **at some point, obedience to him** is going to cost you—at some point, obedience to him will take you 180 degrees opposite of where you think you want to go. It's not going to make life easier, it's going to make it harder. It's not going to lead you to abundance; it's going to lead you to difficulty. The question is: **Are you ready to follow him then?**

Notice that Jesus said following him means taking up a cross. He doesn't say, "Take up my teachings and follow me. Or, take up my moral code and follow me." Or, "Take up my liturgical calendar and follow me." Or, "take up my warm and fuzzy God-blanket and follow me." Or take up "your best life now" and follow me. He says "take up your cross."²

What did Jesus mean by "take up your cross"? Well, realize that for that first audience listening to Jesus, the cross was not a pretty piece of jewelry or a sentimental symbol of their faith--in fact, at the time, **the cross wasn't a religious symbol** at all! The cross was an instrument of torture and execution. It would be today like some politician saying: "Come join my campaign: strap yourselves to the electric chair and let's go!"

BTW, for the first Christians who heard these words, saying "take up your cross" was not poetic or symbolic language, either. It was quite literal. Christianity was birthed into a context where Christians were often put on crosses for choosing to follow Jesus.

- **Nero**, who was likely Caesar when Luke was writing this stuff down, falsely blamed Christians for the Great Fire of Rome and used that as a pretext to hunt them down to Christians. In addition to feeding them to the lions, he would tie them to poles and set them on fire to illuminate his gardens at night.

² Tim Keller, "How to Hate your Parents," Luke 14:25–33.

- Following Nero was **Vespasian**, who ruled from 69-70 AD. Vespasian was the one who sent Roman troops into Jerusalem to desecrate the Temple. He took thousands of Jews, many of whom would have been those first Christians that got saved in the first chapters of Acts, and hung them up on crosses along the road for miles leading into Jerusalem.
- Then, there was **Domitian, who** took persecution to even new levels. It was demonic. For example, he knew Christians would not bow their knee to the Emperor, so would show up to a town like Ephesus, unannounced, and demand that the entire town be brought out to worship him, and whoever did not worship him would be hauled into the Coliseum and fed to the lions. He put Christians into cages with wild animals.

That's the context into which this call to "take up your cross" was first heard. For them, following Jesus might mean that they lost every other relationship, and they had to be more committed to Jesus than their own lives.

BTW, that's not unique to them--throughout time and history Christians have often had to make that choice. **John Bunyan, who lived in England in the 17th century, and who wrote the best selling book of all-time other than the Bible, *Pilgrim's Progress*,** was told by English authorities that he could not preach any Gospel that differed from the state religion. He refused, and he went right on preaching. So they put him in prison. They told him they would let him go if he would swear on the Bible that he would not preach any more. But he could not. And so he stayed in prison. And it tore his heart out. In his journal, he wrote, "The parting with my wife and poor children has often been to me in this place as the pulling of flesh from my bones... I am aware of the many hardships, miseries and wants that my poor family meets with because of my imprisonment-- especially my poor blind child who lay nearer to my heart than anything else on earth The thought of what my precious blind one is going through shatters my heart in pieces!

But yet I must venture all with God. Though I feel like a man pulling down his house upon the head of his wife and his children, yet I must do it. I must do it. I must obey Christ."³

Now, the circumstances of these believers might have been different, and we live in a different era, thank God, but just because our time period is different doesn't mean our commitment to the Lordship of Christ can be any less. What about you? Would you be willing to obey Jesus if it meant a literal cross? Or having to be removed from your family? **Though the circumstances these Christians lived in were more extreme than ours, our** commitment to Christ is not supposed to be less extreme than theirs. **The cross they were asked to take up is the one we're asked to take up as well.**

So, let's ask, What exactly does "take up your cross" mean for us? Well, in context, I'd say it means 2 things: **1. Total Self-Surrender** and **2. Personal Embrace of the Great Commission.** Let's look at those 1 at a time.

I. Total Self-Surrender

A person on a cross had given up total control of their lives. They were under arrest. Bound hand and foot, totally powerless to the will of their captor. As good as already dead.

To pick up our cross means a total surrender of our will to Jesus, to die to anything we want, desire, or believe apart from what Jesus wants.

³ Lightly edited for clarity.

Does that describe your relationship to Jesus?

- Have you brought all your beliefs captive to his teaching? I ask because I talk to a lot of people who would SAY that Jesus is Lord but feel the freedom to decide for themselves what they want to believe about homosexuality, or gender, or sex in general. If something in the Bible offends them, or makes them uncomfortable, they have no problem saying, “Well, I don’t believe that.” I want to say, “I don’t think you understand what Lordship means.” If Jesus is Lord, I believe what he says *because he says it*, whether I disagree with it, am angered by it, or don’t understand it. Listen, **there’s a lot of things in this Book** I find difficult to believe. Some are offensive. The question is, “Is he Lord?”
 - I remember hearing a story about **Billy Graham** (walking in the woods...)
- **Have you brought your will, and your decisions, captive to his direction?** A lot of times we ask that here by saying: **Have you given him a blank check?** I actually brought one /
 - vs. Gift Card (Hardee’s vs. AB).⁴ *For many people becoming a better Christian means upgrading the Hardee's gift card that you give to God to an Angus Barn one. But God wants neither. He wants surrender, nothing more, nothing less. Both gift cards are equally worthless to him.*

Let me take you really quickly to another place in Luke where Jesus talks about this (Luke records this teaching of Jesus twice) and let me ask you a few more questions along the way.

Luke 9:57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

- OK, like I said, in those days, a lot of people followed Jesus because of what he could do for them. He could do miracles--he could heal the sick, calm storms and multiply food. His teachings brought them comfort. And some religious students followed him because it was a way of beefing up their resume--in those days, if you wanted to gain credibility as a teacher, you attached yourself to other famous teachers. So many followed Jesus for that reason.
- Today, many people come to Jesus because they know he can help their marriages, bless their finances, relieve their burdens, sometimes even heal their body. Or help them be successful. And he can do all those things. But here’s the question: What if obedience to Jesus leads you *away* from all those things?

Write this down? **Are you following Jesus for comfort or a cross?**

- Jesus says to them in these verses: If following me leads you away from even having a place to call home, will you go? Is he enough even without a home?
- Like I said, Jesus was not into “follow me for your best life now” invitations. He was into “I’m enough for you even if you have the worst life” kind of invitations.

Luke 9:59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

- **Now, this seems harsh.** Can’t even get my dad into a decent grave? Scholars say this wasn’t simply about going to his dad’s funeral to pay his respects; it was about going home to obtain his inheritance. This man wanted to follow Jesus, but he didn’t want to give up that inheritance. That was his security for the future,

⁴ Using 2 actual gift cards, one nice (Angus Barn) and one cheap (Hardees). For many people becoming a better Christian means upgrading your Hardee's gift card that you give to God to an Angus one. But God wants neither, he wants surrender. Both gift cards are equally worthless to him.

something he had been looking forward to his whole life. Jesus says, “Are you willing to follow me if it means giving up that inheritance?”

Here’s the question for you: Are there any limits to your obedience? Is there any place where you say, “I can’t walk away from that”?

- More practically: **Is there anything he’s told you to stop doing that you’re still doing?** (some relationship, some habit)
- **Is there anything he’s told you to start doing you’re *not* doing yet?** (think: tithing/generosity; obedience to some call; maybe engaging in some ministry; could be as simple as joining the church)

A follower of Jesus has forsaken all that Jesus has forbidden and commenced all that Jesus commanded.

- It means, as we’ve said, **you’ve put down your life as a blank check** and say, “Lord Jesus, all that I am, all that I have, all that I ever hope to be, I now and forever give fully and entirely to you.”
- **Illus. Driver’s ed:** steering wheel and brake pedal. Who was in charge? Me...or him, who could override and veto every decision. Many of you are riding around with Jesus. The question is, “Who owns the brake pedal?”

Luke 9:61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” **62** Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

- Again this seems a little harsh. But this was not just “Let me run home and tell my mom I won’t be home for dinner so they don’t turn in a ‘missing person’ report” kind of request. Vs. 62 shows you that this involved hesitation. Sinful hesitation.

Here’s the question: Are you delaying obedience? You think, “When I get older I’ll follow Jesus fully.” “After I get settled in my career” or “when I’m out of this situation.” Jesus says that you can’t have him and delayed obedience. **It’s either full surrender or no surrender.**

Again, **to use marriage as an example:** Imagine if after dating Veronica for a while I had said to her, “I want to marry you. There’s no other girl I want to grow old with. But I’m also really having fun playing the field. So, let’s get married, so I can have you locked down for life--because I don’t want to lose you--but I don’t want to live together at first because I’d like to have my nights free to keep playing the field. I’ll settle down with you when I’m a bit older.” **Of course she wouldn’t do that.** To have someone as special as Veronica, I had to give myself fully to her. Here’s the point: **Many people think they already belong to Jesus** (They say, “I accepted Christ when I was 12!”) But they think following him fully will happen later. No, just as Veronica would not have put up with 2 years of marriage with me where I just ignored her, Jesus will not have followers who do not submit to following him fully, immediately.

When Jesus commands you to do something, do you ask questions like: “Is it safe?” “What will these people think?” “What will it do to my relationships at school?” “What will it mean for my college life?” “What will it mean for my bank account?” For a true follower of Jesus, there are no such questions, no hesitation. What Jesus commands, you do.

So, take up your cross means “total self-surrender,” death to any control you claim over your life. It also means:

II. Personal Embrace of the Great Commission

It's not just passive surrender Jesus is after (as if you say, "OK, I'll obey any commands you give me" and then going on about your life.) The cross was Jesus' instrument of world salvation, so to take it up means actively, proactively, devoting your life to his mission. I point this out because a lot of people think becoming a Christian means simply obeying all the 10 commandments but then going on with your usual life and career goals unless God appears to you in a burning bush or something. But that's not true. Following Jesus means accepting his mission as your own and pursuing it.

It's like I said a few weeks ago, there is no such thing as a follower of Jesus not devoted to the mission.

Two practical questions here:

1. Have you embraced the Great Commission?

What is the Great Commission? A number of places in the Bible spell it out, let me highlight this one:

2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

People talk about wanting to "find God's will." It's not lost; it's right there in that verse. He's not WILLING that any should perish, and he wants to use YOU to bring them to repentance.

Do you know what God's word says about the lost?

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire... (he will) inflict vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might..."

Revelation 20:15, "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

How could we believe the gospel and do nothing? Listen, God didn't make us all the same and he has lots of roles for us in the body of Christ (you are not all like me, doing what I do full-time--btw, some of you are and I pray that God raises up lots of men and women for the full-time ministry in this church)--but we don't all have THIS role. **But all of us, regardless of our role**, have one thing in common--it's our responsibility to tell the people in our lives about Jesus.

The cross demands something of us. The story I always think of here is... (**Illus.** Man coming upon bridge)

Following Jesus means reassessing your talents and your resources in light of the Great Commission.

- We challenge all our students to put the mission of God first in where they pursue their career. To give at least the 1st 2 years. We tell them, "You've got to get a job somewhere... why not get a job in a place where God is doing something strategic?" (STEP: City Project)
- That kind of thinking is not just for students. You need to reassess your gifts. Why did God give you the talents that he gave you? Why did he give you the resources he gave you? Are you using them for the Great Commission. Friend, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past...)

Follow me, Jesus said in Luke 5, and I will make you a fisher of men. Not, "Follow me and I'll make some of you fishers of men." If you truly follow him, that's what he has for you. There's no such thing as a follower of Jesus not devoted to the mission.

2. Are you obeying his command to care for the poor?

Jesus said repeatedly throughout the book of Luke that if we don't act on behalf of the poor around us, our faith is not real. Jesus came to set the captive free and relieve the burden of the suffering. If we're not doing that, we can't call ourselves his followers.

- **In fact, in Luke 16**, Jesus described a rich, religious man who had everything right--he believed all the right things, lived by the right morals, was super involved in religion--only he ignored the suffering of the people around him. "It's not my responsibility," he thought. "I didn't steal from them. And I earned everything I have honestly." In one of the most shocking twists in Jesus' story, that religious man ended up in hell; his lack of engagement with the poor the indication that his faith wasn't real.
- **Proverbs 21:13**, "Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered." (Look at that! You pray, and go to church faithfully, but you shut your ears to the poor, and so when you pray it doesn't matter. You've got nothing.)
- **Proverbs 28:27**, Whoever gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes from them will get many a curse. (You will be cursed by God.)

You say you are a disciple, but have you asked, "*How is my life supposed to lift others up and relieve suffering around me?*"

- **Are you thinking about your career only in terms of how it can help you accomplish your goals--the house you want**, the vacations you want, the retirement you want--or have you asked how God can use it to lift up others?
- **Is the trajectory of your life going toward human suffering, or away from it?**

Here's the bottom line: When Jesus called people to follow him, he **didn't mince words**. *Take up your cross. Hate your father* and mother. *Renounce* everything.

It was **almost like he wanted to turn people away!** But of course, that wasn't his goal! He wanted us to count the cost--to think about exactly what he's asking and not attempt to use Jesus as a fire escape or divine genie to help us through problems.

And **that's what I want today, also. I want you carefully to count the cost.** Because praying a prayer, or raising your hand, or getting baptized, or getting involved in a small group--none of those things is the essence of discipleship. Total surrender and a personal embrace of the Great Commission is.

Is that what you are ready for? Is that what you committed to? If your answer to that is yes, does your life demonstrate that kind of radical obedience now, in every area? Are you willing to stand where he tells you to stand, even if it's unpopular and you have to stand alone? Are you willing to testify to Jesus, and say you belong to him and he's most important to you, even if others make fun of you? Are you willing to be generous where he tells you to be generous, to go where he tells you to go, to do what he tells you to do?

Don't tell me you're ready to go all the way with Jesus if you're not obeying him in the areas where he's already spoken.

Why do so many so-called “Christians” stop following Jesus when it gets hard?

John R. W. Stott: “The Christian landscape is strewn with the wreckage of derelict, half-built towers, the ruins of those who began to build and were unable to finish, for thousands of people still ignore Christ’s warning and undertake to follow him without first pausing to reflect on the cost of doing so. The result is the great scandal of Christendom today, so-called nominal Christianity... ‘Christians’ get somewhat involved, enough to be respectable but not enough to be uncomfortable. Their religion is a great, soft cushion that protects them from the hard unpleasantness of life but doesn’t transform their lives in radical ways... No wonder cynics dismiss religion as escapism.”⁵

Friends, I need you to choose: nominal Christianity or real Christianity. Comfort or a cross.

And so, today I’m asking you to make a **very simple decision in that direction**. I’m asking you to recommit to the 5 essential identities of a follower of Jesus.

Before I walk you through that, however, I want to speak one last word of truth into you.

(CONCLUSION--MUSIC)

The context in which Jesus made these demands of discipleship--to renounce everything and become so dedicated to Jesus that next to your commitment to him even your most intimate relationships seem like hate--the context was in response to his incredible offer TO us.

You see, in the verses of Luke 14 leading up to our text, Jesus had compared the offer of salvation to a wealthy, powerful **King who threw a great feast** and invited a bunch of honored guests. **Shockingly, however, a lot of them made excuses** for why they couldn’t come. The excuses ranged from the **lame to the absurd**: “Well, I just bought a piece of property and I need to go out and see it.” Or, “I’m newly married and my wife and I want some alone time.”

So the **King says to his messenger**: “OK then, if these people won’t come, go out into the ghettos, and round up the poor, the homeless, the diseased, those who are living in ditches and under bridges, and tell them to come.”

The whole point of the story is how absurd it would be to turn down an offer like that from the King. Especially if you are one of the homeless and diseased! Do you realize what you’re being offered? What excuse could possibly justify rejection, or even hesitation, of so great an offer?

And so I would say to you--yes, the demands are severe--but do you know what JESUS offers you? **“He that has the Son has life; and whoever does not have the Son does not have life.”**

Has life: Eternal life. Eternal adoption into the family of God. Forgiveness. The power of resurrection at work in you to heal and restore both you and those around you. His presence inside you that will never leave nor forsake you. A divine inheritance kept in heaven for you--A home and an eternity of joy and delight and blessedness with the family of God in God’s presence. And, for right now, the promise that a sovereign, good

⁵ Lightly edited for clarity.

Heavenly Father watches over you so carefully and tenderly that he'll know when even a hair falls from your head and pledges to work all things in your life for good; that he will lead you beside still waters of fulfillment and make the cup of your joy overflow even in pain; and that even in the presence of your enemies he will prepare for you a feast of satisfaction; that goodness and mercy will stalk you all the days of your life; you couldn't get away from them if you tried--and you will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This is a God who, in your worst moments, didn't despise you, but had mercy on you; came after you. And even after you spurned him, kept coming for you. He never gave up; never looked away; he loved you faithfully and consistently even in your worst moments. He loves you right now, and is pursuing you, no matter what a mess you've made of your life. No one's love for you has ever been as constant, consistent, and fervent as his.

He's a Jesus who promised to bear this discipleship burden with you, who will forgive and support and restore you when you struggle even to get out of bed in the morning, much less live successfully as a disciple. Who promises to walk with you and sustain you and pick you up when you fall.

In light of that, what possible excuse could you have to stay away? What reason could you manufacture that could justify even the slightest hesitation?

Would you not leave everything on earth 1000x over to possess him? Any excuse that keeps you from claiming it now is folly in the realm of insanity. It's like the person who turns down an inheritance of billions of dollars because they didn't want to spend the money on the gas to drive down to the bank to claim it.

- When a college student says to me that they want to hold off on following Jesus because they are having too much fun right now, or they'd have to give up their sexual freedom, or waste their party years, I want to say, **"Do you have any idea what you're talking about?** You're comparing knowing GOD and having all his promises to a little sexual freedom--freedom that won't satisfy, anyway and will just leave you more broken and hungrier than when you started--and for that you **gave up GOD?**

Jesus offers to give himself fully to you, but he will only do that for those ready to give themselves fully to him. Are you ready to do that? He doesn't expect you to be perfect, but he does demand you come after him with all your heart.

I'm calling you to commit right now.

(([Discipleship commitment](#)))

OK, so everyone, take out your phone.

Go to summitchurch.com or text "commit" to 33933. If you are watching online, you might even pause me for a moment while you get set up.

This is for EVERYONE, not just those making a 1st time decision. As we emerge from lockdown, I want you to *recommit* to being a disciple. (BTW, we have already had 100s in our church family make this commitment in the past few weeks, including 100% of our staff. So this is going to be for everyone. It's for you.

I'm going to **give you a moment to get your phone out and get there**, and I'm also going to **put a prayer and reflection point on the screen** while you do. So, get your phone out and get there, and then take whatever time is left to reflect on the point

THE COMMITMENT

- **Worshiper**: That means no rivals to your obedience. It also means you commit to walk with him daily and be a regular attender of worship.
- **Family member**: to not just believe, but belong. To be a part of the family. Here we say, *church should not be an event you attend, but a family you belong to*. That means if you are a real disciple, you'll be committed to the church. Saying you are committed to Jesus and not an active part of the church is like saying you're married but never coming home to your spouse at night. Listen, in the NT, following Jesus and being an active part of a local congregation *are the same thing*. You can't love Jesus and only date his church--you've got to commit.
- **Servant**: using your life and your talents for ministry. You may not know what that looks like, but checking that says "you're willing."
- **Steward**: committing to using your resources as a part of his mission.
- **Witness**: committing to making sure people in your life know about Jesus. And committing to being a part of helping us get this good news from our neighborhoods to the nations. There's *no such thing as a follower of Jesus* who is not an active part of that mission. You may **not do everything** but you'll do something.

Some of you might say, "**What do I do with this now?**" We have 'next step' resources on our website that will help you take steps in growing a disciple in our church family

If for some reason, you don't feel like you can say "yes" to all of these, we still want you to **commit to what you can commit to**, and we want you to know we are committed to loving you & helping encourage you in your walk with Jesus. In fact, I would say this commitment is as much about our commitment to you.

Finally, for many of you--this may represent the first time you're fully surrendering to Jesus. Maybe this is a big moment, and I want to lead you in a time to receive Christ as Lord and Savior if you never have. **PRAY THIS... NOW CHECK THAT BOX**

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

