



**WORD**

<sup>26</sup>"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. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." **LUKE 14:26,27**

One of the most shocking statements Jesus ever made was here in Luke 14:26. But did He really mean we should literally hate our family? When Jesus made this statement, He was actually challenging the crowds to choose and love God above all else. "Hating" our family, therefore, means loving them less than God. In fact, the Bible commands us to honor our father and mother. But if God is to truly be our Lord and Master, that means our devotion to Him takes precedence over any relationship or person, including our family. In this lesson, we will look at what loving God above all else means.

**1 Honor God above all else.**

*"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me . . ." **MATTHEW 15:8***

To honor God is putting Him in high regard and bringing glory to Him, not just with our lips, but also from our hearts and our whole lives. If we are to really honor God, why should our hearts never be far from Him?

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**2 Value God above all else.**

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." **MATTHEW 6:33***

To seek God first is to treasure Him and His kingdom above anything or anyone else. It means that He has the first and most important place in every area of our lives. How have you learned to value your relationship with God above all else?

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**3 Follow God above all else.**

*<sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **MATTHEW 4:19,20***

If we are to love God above all else, that means we follow and obey Him no matter what the cost and what we would have to leave behind. Who cannot be Jesus' disciple. (Luke 14:26,27)?

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