

# Luke 14:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

## Analysis

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Jesus states discipleship's cost: 'If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.' The term 'hate' (μισεῖ, misei) is Semitic hyperbole for radical prioritization—Jesus must come before all human relationships, even the most intimate and sacred. The list encompasses all family relationships: parents, spouse, children, siblings. The phrase 'yea, and his own life also' (ἔτι τε καὶ τὴν ψυχὴν ἑαυτοῦ, eti te kai tēn psychēn heautou) means even self-preservation must yield to Christ's lordship. The conclusion 'he cannot be my disciple' (οὐ δύναται εἶναί μου μαθητής, ou dynatai einai mou mathētēs) is absolute—partial commitment is impossible. Discipleship requires total allegiance.

## Historical Context

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This teaching radically challenged first-century values. Family loyalty was paramount in ancient Mediterranean culture—dishonoring parents or abandoning family was unthinkable. Jesus doesn't counsel literal hatred (which would contradict the fifth commandment) but demands that when allegiances conflict, Christ must prevail. Early Christians faced precisely this—following Jesus often meant family rejection, disinheritance, even persecution by relatives (Matthew 10:34-37, Luke 12:51-53, 21:16). This cost persists globally—converts from other religions frequently lose family, home, and social standing. The teaching confronts comfortable Western Christianity that domesticates discipleship.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' demand for supreme loyalty challenge contemporary Christianity's accommodation with culture?
2. What might it mean today to 'hate' family members for Christ's sake—what conflicts of loyalty do modern disciples face?
3. How do you balance honoring parents and loving family with giving Christ absolute priority?

## Interlinear Text

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Εἷ τις ἔρχεται πρὸς με καὶ οὐ μισεῖ τὸν πατέρα  
G1487 G5100 **man come** **to** **me** **also** **he cannot** **hate** G3588 **father**  
G2064 G4314 G3165 G2532 G3756 G3404 G3962

ἑαυτοῦ καὶ τὴν μητέρα καὶ τὴν γυναῖκα καὶ τὰ  
**his** **also** G3588 **mother** **also** G3588 **wife** **also** G3588  
G1438 G2532 G3384 G2532 G1135 G2532

τέκνα καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς καὶ τὰς ἀδελφάς ἔτι δέ  
**children** **also** G3588 **brethren** **also** G3588 **sisters** **yea** **and**  
G5043 G2532 G80 G2532 G79 G2089 G1161

καὶ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν οὐ δύναται μου μαθητὴς  
**also** G3588 **his** **life** **he cannot** G1410 **my** **disciple**  
G2532 G1438 G5590 G3756 G3450 G3101

εἶναί  
**be**  
G1511

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 10:37** (Parallel theme): He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

**John 12:25** (Parallel theme): He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

**Philippians 3:8** (Parallel theme): Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

**Acts 20:24** (Parallel theme): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**Revelation 12:11** (Parallel theme): And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

**Deuteronomy 33:9** (Parallel theme): Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant.