

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: [www.elementroots.org](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### AGAPE THANKSGIVING DINNERS

**Sunday, November 20th**

**Alternative Dinner will be tonight**

RSVP for a dinner by emailing:  
[connect@ourelement.org](mailto:connect@ourelement.org)

### WOMEN'S ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

**Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30pm**

Sign up and get more details at:  
[women@ourelement.org](mailto:women@ourelement.org)

### CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

**Saturday, December 17th**

Donations, service opportunities  
and recommendations at the  
Welcome Center

### CHRISTMAS EVE

**Services: 7, 9 & 11pm**  
Childcare at 7pm only.  
No Sunday services on  
Christmas Day.

### HAVE QUESTIONS?

**Do you have a *What in the World?*  
question you'd like us to answer?**

**Ask us at: [www.ourelement.org/what?](http://www.ourelement.org/what?)  
or via this QR Code with your phone:**



# WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

## FIVE WHY IS JESUS SO HARSH?

— LUKE 14:25-33 —

MATTHEW 10:24

LUKE 14:25-33

MATTHEW 10:34-38

GENESIS 29

ROMANS 5:3-5

COLOSSIANS 3:2-4

# FIVE WHY IS JESUS SO HARSH?

— LUKE 14:25-33 —

Welcome to Element! We are currently five weeks in to our “What in the World?!” sermon series! In this relatively short(er) series from Element (it is 10 weeks) we are taking a look at the parts of the bible that make us scratch our heads and ask “What in the world, why is that in the Bible?” A lot of these things are subjects people have asked questions about for centuries. These questions can be frustrating if we don’t understand them. Today we look at the supposed harshness of Jesus calling us to “hate” our father and mother.

**When you think of Jesus’ personality, what do you think it was like? Have you ever imagined Jesus using a word like hate?**

Many people think of Jesus as a nice guy who did a whole bunch of miracles, hugged people, fed people, welcomed people, and gave people a perpetual ‘thumbs up,’ but if we look throughout scripture we find that Jesus says some pretty intense things. When we look at who Jesus truly was and is we have to re-examine how we view Jesus. Yes, Jesus loves us (and that is an amazing truth), but He says a lot things that cut right through the idea of ‘buddy Christ.’

**Read Luke 14:25-26.**

**Also read the parallel passage Matt 10:34-38**

**What stands out to you from your initial reading of these passages?**

Most people, upon their initial reading of these passages, tend to see only the negative because of the cultural perspective from which we are raised. In reality these passages are about the cost of discipleship and how families respond when someone really follows Jesus.

**What is your understanding of a disciple?**

This morning we will learn there are 5 key components of being a disciple.

## 1) Jesus’ discipleship is not optional

Jesus says, “*Anyone* who wants to deal with me has to take up a cross. I must be first in everything, ahead of parents and family and career.” Full, complete, sacrificial discipleship is how we follow Jesus. To be a disciple is to be a Christian. You can’t say, ‘*I’m a Christian, but I’m not into all that.*’ There are not two standards.

**What sayings of Jesus do you act like are “optional?”**

## 2) Jesus’ discipleship is unpredictable.

We often paint a picture of what we want our lives to look like. Most of the time this is different than what God has in mind. When we follow Jesus as who He is, He becomes to us the most relevant, thrilling, fulfilling thing in our lives, but not if we come with our own agenda

**Where in your life do you come to Jesus with your own agenda? What does that look like?**

## 3) Jesus’ discipleship is deeply emotional.

Augustine echoes Jesus and says you can begin to HATE people or things (mom/dad/spouse/boss/friends) but that will never bring freedom...or you can love God more than all of those things and be free because nothing chains you down.

**What things do you currently “love” more than Jesus?**

## 4) Jesus’ discipleship is completely positional.

Henry Sweet wrote “*to take up the cross can only mean one thing. It must mean to put yourself in the place of a condemned criminal.*” What condemned criminal are we to identify with? JESUS! It’s why we understand that when our lives are found in Him, we died because He died...and because He lives, we too get to live.

## 5) Jesus’ discipleship is unconditional.

Taking up our cross has a finality to it. Jesus uses a symbol of execution as the central image of what it means to live a Christian life.

**Have you ever thought, “I am a Christian, I know I should not do this,” but then you do it anyway? Why do you think that is?**

**Is Jesus really first in your life? Would other people say the same thing about you?**