

Discipleship Series - 9/22/19

The Cost of Real Discipleship

TEXT – Luke 14:26-33 *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.*

INTRO – There are several names given to born again believers:

- Christians – 3 times
- Saints - 95 times
- Priests
- Children of God
- Elect
- Citizens of the kingdom of Heaven
- Servants
- Ambassadors
- Believers
- Disciples

A **Disciple** "a learner" one who follows one's teaching," A "disciple" was not only a pupil, but an adherent to the teaching and lifestyle.

There are certain steps to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ

1. Salvation
2. Education - Learning from a teacher
3. Following an example
4. Correction
5. Personal responsibility

Rom 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

The plural form of Disciple most often refers to the 12 Apostles

All the Apostles faced Martyrdom except John who faced persecution

Anyone who has been saved and is following the teachings of Christ would seem to fit the label of disciple. However the standard of discipleship set forth by Jesus is a much higher standard.

A young seminary student wrote, I really thought I was open to doing God's will. In reality, I only wanted to do my will and hoped that His will was the same. I learned rather quickly that God's ways were not my ways.

I. There are some exclusions to wearing the name of disciple!

A. Not Following Christ

Luke 9:59-62 *And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. 60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. 61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them*

farewell, which are at home at my house. 62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

B. Not continuing in the Word of God

John 8:31 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

C. Not bearing fruit

John 15:8 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

D. Not loving the brethren

John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

II. Mutually Exclusive Priorities In Life

Isaiah 55:8-9 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

You can't live for or serve God AND live for or serve money/material things or the world - they are mutually exclusive priorities in life.

A clear example is the set of outcomes of a single coin toss, which can result in either heads or tails, but not both.

In the coin-tossing example, both outcomes are, in theory, collectively exhaustive, which means that at least one of the outcomes must happen, so these two possibilities together exhaust all the possibilities

A. You can't be a true follower of Christ and live for money

What are you spending the majority of your time working for, talking about and thinking about? Answer that question honestly - without self-deception - and you will know what you love and serve.

Mat 6:24-25 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. 25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

B. You can't love God and the world

Mat 22:37-40 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

1 Jn 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

C. You can't love your family above God

Luke 14:26*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 solution is not to live with as few material possessions as is possible and never work for food, clothing and shelter. Rather, the solution is to stop working FOR money and material things; seek to maximize the Greater work of proclaiming the real gospel and minimize the lesser work of providing food, clothing and shelter for ourselves.

D. You can't love God without bearing your cross

Mat 16:24-25 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

Mark 8:34 *And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

E. The Disciples forsook Him

John 6:66-67 *From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?*

Mat 26:56 *But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.*

III. True Discipleship Stores Up Treasure In Heaven

A. Eternal Rewards

Mat 6:19-21 *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

B. The last will be first

Mark 10:28-31 *Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. 29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. 31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.*

CONCL – In today's world, electronics and entertainment are things many people live for and must be forsaken. College education, work and 'careers' that have no purpose in advancing the Kingdom of God must be forsaken.

The mission statement by a young African pastor found among his papers in Zimbabwe after he was martyred!

I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His and I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by Holy Spirit power.

My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear!