

Discipleship Series - 10/06/19

The Rewards of Discipleship

TEXT – Rom 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of*

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

- Christians – 3 times - Saints - 95 times – Priests - Servants
- Ambassadors - 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.*

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.

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.*

Mat 10:37-39 *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. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

Luke 9:59-60 *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.*

What this man was really saying was that he wanted to delay following the Lord until his father died and he received his inheritance. He knew that Jesus was moving out of the area, and to leave now might cause him to lose out on his share of his father's estate. Jesus challenged this individual to leave temporal, earthly matters to worldly people and not make them his overriding priority.

Rom 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- **The first step of finding and doing the will of God is a total surrender of one's life. There must be a yielding of your life.**

Luke 14:33 *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

Luke 16:13 *No servant 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.*

In 1937, German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer published a book called *Nachfolge*. When this book was translated into English in 1948, it had a longer title, one that revealed the book's central message: *The Cost of Discipleship*. Though God's grace is offered to us freely in Christ, when we decide to follow him, there is for us the cost of putting aside our old life (the old man) and putting on our new life in Christ. According to Bonhoeffer, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be a death like Luther's, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time—death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call"

Jesus is speaking hyperbolically in Luke 14:33. But, in a sense, when we decide to follow Jesus, we do give up everything to him: our lives, our ambitions, our relationships, our talents, and our stuff. We recognize that God is the true owner of all that we consider to be ours, and we commit it all to him and his purposes.

The reasons we should yield ourselves to God is the sacrificial death of Christ:

1 Pe 1:18-19 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

1 Jn 3:16 *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

1 Jn 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

- **By losing our life we find life.**

Luke 14:11 *For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

Mat 16:25 *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

- **We experience the miraculous provision of God**

Mat 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

In the will of God we find:

1. Good

2. Acceptable – Pleasing

Perfect – Complete

The life of Bo Eikelman

CONCL – How do you respond to the statement of Jesus in Luke 14:33? Why do you respond this way? What does it tell you about yourself and your faith? Is Jesus asking you to give up something in order to follow him more completely? Are you open to hearing this call to sacrifice? Would you be willing to give up what he asks from you?

In today's world, there are many things 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!