

6 February 2023

The Cost of being Christ's Disciple

The Great Commission! Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20

Preach the gospel to sinners everywhere that they might believe and be saved from their sins, literally, "Make Disciples" unto me in every nation!

If you are a Christian, you MUST ALSO BE a disciple of Christ.

A DISCIPLE is a student, a learner, a follower, and an imitator of their "Teacher" ...if you're a Christian, each of these things should be true of you!

In Jesus' day, MANY who followed Him from city to city to see His miracles and signs, to be fed by Him, and to hear His Word... but MANY were not willing to be His disciples at all costs, no matter what? Have I counted the costs of being a disciple of Christ? Have you? Luke 14:25-33

This great multitude following the Lord were challenged by what He taught them..WHY they were following Him? What were their intentions?

I have no doubt that MANY, if not all of them fully INTENDED on following the Lord Jesus wherever He went. He knew this, that's why He turned around and said what He said to them...to prove their intentions...

Do you remember John 6:60: "Many therefore of His disciples when they had heard this saying, said, this is an hard saying; who can hear it?" These sayings of Jesus to them were equally hard for many to hear!

If you will follow me, and be my disciple, there are certain things that I will require of you, there will be a cost. How far are you willing to go with me, said Christ to each of His "would-be followers"? Luke 14:26

So, I am commanded by Christ to love my enemies and those that hate me, and to pray for those who despise and persecute me, but HERE, I must hate my closest family relations? Is Christ teaching the people (and us) that we must hate our own loved ones if we would be His disciples?

The best commentary and explanation on passages like this IS the Word of God! We must always interpret the Bible with the Bible!

Think about what your Christianity would represent if it was characterized by HATRED toward your closest family relations... we must be so careful with this word HATE in the Word of God...it is very dangerous to throw this word around carelessly and thoughtlessly without understanding the context of what Christ is teaching us.

IF you would be Jesus' disciple, your love for Him MUST far exceed your love for your closest family relations! I don't hate my wife, but I love the Lord Jesus much more than I love my wife! Ephesians 5:25

But even this is TOO hard saying for MANY to receive! In fact, have you ever had someone in your family get angry

toward you because you wouldn't miss church for them?
Matthew 10:34-39, "MORE THAN ME".

John 12:25. Are we being taught here that it is right to hate our earthly lives? Psalm 34:11-14, 1 Peter 3:10-11; we love eternal life MUCH MORE than earthly life! Genesis 29:28-33.

John Calvin wrote: "When Moses asserts that Leah was hated, his meaning is, that she was not loved so much as she ought to have been. For she was not intolerable to Jacob, neither did he pursue her with hatred; but Moses, by use of this word, amplifies Jacob's fault, in not having discharged his duties as a husband, and in not treating her who was his first wife with adequate kindness and honor" (and love - mine).

Jacob's affections were cold toward Leah, and warm toward Rachel! Think about it ladies, if your husband's affections are consistently cold toward you, what will you think? But to say that Jacob maliciously hated Leah is completely wrong. He simply loved Rachel so much more!

Back to the Words of the Lord Jesus to the "great multitudes" following Him... If you would be my disciple, I must be your "First Love"! But if you do not love me MORE than to your closest family relations, even your wife and children, you cannot be my disciple!

Comparatively, your family may deem you to hate them, when in fact, you simply love Christ so much more than you love them!

Remember last Wednesday when Mary "left Martha alone" to serve? Mary's love to Christ was so much more than her love for her sister, so much so that it angered Martha! Did Mary hate Martha?

Christ goes further: If you're not willing "bear your cross" and come after me, you cannot be my disciple. Luke 9:23

What does it mean to "take up your cross daily"? If you would be a lover of Christ in this world, you will suffer for that... you will be persecuted and afflicted because you "identify with Christ"; because you publicly and gladly declare that you are a follower of Christ! You take up your cross daily!

There are many who intend to follow Christ, but who will not bear to pick up the cross of suffering for His Name! Some will profess to be believers in Christ for a little while... but then when they begin to suffer for His Name, they draw back! Mark 4:16-17

And so, COUNT THE COST, before you INTEND to follow me and be my disciple... count the cost, before you profess to believe me and my Word, and suffer because of me! Luke 14:28-32

When it comes to family, friends, possessions, earthly and perishing things in this present world coming between you and your love to Christ, you must be willing to forsake all. Luke 9:57-62

