

“What Is A Disciple?” (lesson #1)

Mark 10:17-22 – Rich (Matt 19:16-22 – Young; Luke 18:18-23 – Ruler) – Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, & asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" 18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father & your mother.'" 20 And he answered & said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, & said to him, "**One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have & give to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven; & come, take up the cross, & follow Me.**" 22 But he was sad at this word, & went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Mark 10:29-30 – So Jesus answered & said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has **left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake & the gospel's**, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time -- houses & brothers & sisters & mothers & children & lands, with persecutions -- & in the age to come, eternal life.

Luke 14:25-35 (Matt 10:34-39) – Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned & said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me & does **not hate his father & mother, wife & children, brothers & sisters, yes, & his own life also**, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross & come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first & **count the cost**, whether he has enough to finish it -- 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, & is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build & was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first & **consider whether he is able** with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation & asks conditions of peace. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. 34 (Matt 5:13; Mark 9:50) "**Salt is good**; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? 35 It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matt 16:21-26 (Mark 8:31-33; Luke 9:21,22) – From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, & suffer many things from the elders & chief priests & scribes, & be killed, & be raised the third day. 22 Then PETER took Him aside & began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned & said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not **mindful of the things of God**, but the things of men." 24 (Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:23-26) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself, & take up his cross, & follow Me**. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for My sake** will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, & loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Discipleship is a learned & experienced matter. In this study we will use the apostle Peter & the Lord's personal acquaintance with him, as well as his epistles as the basis of our study.

Luke 6:39-42 – And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? 40 **A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.** 41 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! **First remove the plank from your own eye, & then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.**

**A disciple should have a qualified teacher (a river rises no higher than its source).
... will want to be like his teacher.
...can help others only by helping himself first.**

John 8:31 – Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**"

A disciple abides or continues (to stay in a given place) in the words of his teacher.

John 6:45, 64-66 – It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard & learned from the Father comes to Me...64 But there are some of you who do not believe." **For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe,** & who would betray Him. 65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." 66 From that **time many of His disciples went back & walked with Him no more.**

One may cease to be a disciple (Christian) by breaking stride with the Teacher.

1. Define “disciple” (Matt 28:18-20). John had his disciples (Matt 9:14); the Pharisees had theirs (Matt 22:16); Moses had his (John 9:28). This study concentrates on being a disciple of our Lord.

A disciple is a learner or a pupil.

Discipleship begins @ baptism & is continued through teaching.

However, a person can be “always learning & never able to come to a knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim 3:7) & never be a true disciple.

2. Can a person be a “secret” disciple of Jesus (John 19:38)?

Not for long (Mk 8:38; Lk 9:34-36; Matt 10:32-33)!

Why was Joseph (a council member, Lk 23:50; a prominent council member, Mk 15:43; & a rich man Matt 27:57; Isa 53:4) a “secret disciple”?

3. In our texts name 3 basic requirements of being a disciple.

- 1) Seek only the heavenly treasure.
- 2) Count the cost.
- 3) Bear the cross.

Discuss in the context of (Jn 6:64; 2 Tim 2:19; Mk 4:24-25; Matt 13:12; 25:29; Lk 8:18)

4. Show from the John 5 that Jesus does not force one to be his disciple (voluntary). Why is understanding this so important?

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; & these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not **willing** to come to Me that you may have life” (Jn 5:39-40).

Understanding the human element help us realize that we are not failures when someone refuses to heed the Lord’s word from us.

5. Why was Peter rebuked? Are rebukes conducive to discipleship?

He wanted to carry out his plan instead of God’s. **See** (Titus 1:13).

Institutionalism is the bane (nuisance, pest, irritation, blight, curse) of the brotherhood, & ignoring NT patterns (work, worship, organization, local church autonomy, & independent Christian service) along with the social gospel will eventually bring the church into ruin.

APPLICATION:

6. Can Christians become disciples of preachers, churches, papers, colleges, etc.? What is wrong with this?

Their affections are misplaced (Matt 22:37).

It reaches a point where they will defend these objects of their affection over the revealed will of God.

7. You love someone & want him or her to be a disciple of the Lord. What is the first thing you would do to encourage this person?