

The Price of Discipleship

Lesson 41

1. The Lord was EXPLICIT and FIRM when He talked about DISCIPLESHIP. Luke 9:23; 14:27
2. BEARING THE CROSS does not refer to the many trials we face in life.
3. We may bear A CROSS but Christ's concern is that we bear THE CROSS: the Cross of Calvary. The believer's cross is the CROSS OF CALVARY. It means DYING TO SELF. Galatians 2:20
4. As DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, Christ gives us His cross, His life and His ministry TO SHARE WITH THE WORLD. Gal. 6:14.
5. The PRINCIPLE of discipleship and CHRISTIAN GROWTH is found in Mark 4:28.
6. For most Christians it takes a LONG TIME to grow from "A BLADE" to the "FULL EAR." Don't become discouraged.
7. STAYING BUSY is not the same as GROWING IN CHRIST. As a disciple, however, SERVICE is a part of your Christian growth. 1 Peter 2:2
8. There is a vast difference between coming TO CHRIST for salvation and coming AFTER CHRIST as a disciple.
9. Coming to Christ makes one a BELIEVER. Coming after Christ makes one a DISCIPLE. Matthew 11:28; Matthew 4:18 and 19
10. The word disciple means A LEARNER or ONE WHO IS TAUGHT. The Jewish Christians in the book of Hebrews were MISSING THE GOAL. Hebrews 5:11-14
11. The DISCIPLESHIP GOAL is found in Hebrews 6:1.
12. The Lord's instruction in discipleship comes to us in His GREAT COMMISSION. Matthew 28:18-20
13. Christ's instruction is to GO in His power and authority DISCIPLE, BAPTIZE and TEACH.
14. The WORK of a disciple is TWOFOLD:
 - a. Praise God CONTINUALLY Hebrews 13:15; Phil. 4:4
 - b. Do GOOD to others. Hebrews 13:16

15. The following are three spiritual sacrifices:
- a. A BROKEN SPIRIT and a CONTRITE heart. Psalm 51:17
 - b. SHOUTS OF JOY and music to the Lord. Psalm 27:6
 - c. Our BODIES Romans 12:1
16. A Christian should be a DEMONSTRATION of the love of Christ.
17. Here is a list of fruit which will come from a disciple of Christ as seen in Hebrews 13:1-9:
- a. BROTHERLY LOVE verse 1
 - b. HOSPITALITY verse 2
 - c. SYMPATHY verse 3
 - d. personal PURITY verse 4
 - e. CONTENTMENT verse 5
 - f. CONFIDENCE verse 6
 - g. INTERCESSION verse 7
 - h. STABILITY verse 9

Conclusion

A Christian becomes a disciple when he begins to learn, to grow, to become the “full corn of the ear.” The twelve were disciples, then apostles (Matthew 10). A disciple is a “learner” -- an apostle is “one sent forth.” The price of real discipleship is small compared to the price our Lord had to pay for our salvation.

Our position, or our standing, as a disciple was established by the will of God, the work of Christ, and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Just think -- the Trinity established our position, our standing. We are “in Christ” -- we are called Christians. We are identified with Christ. “As He is, so *are* we in this world.” (present tense)

Christians who continue to be “babies” in the faith after 10, 20, 40 years are not learners. The message of this lesson, and of the book of Hebrews, is “let us go on to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1). Become teachable, become learners. Then, you are really disciples of the Lord Jesus.

True discipleship means that we love one another, respect one another. There is so little accomplished by arguing, by speculation, by splitting hairs about the Bible. So much could be done for Christ were that energy spent on teaching, learning, helping, praising, thanking God continually. The *process* of discipleship has been established by the Trinity. The *price* of discipleship is your decision. You can say with Paul, “For me to live is Christ” (Philippians 1:21). “For in Him we live, and move, and have our being...” (Acts 17:28).