

BECOMING A DISCIPLE

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Luke 14:27

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

1. Last week we saw that when Jesus called His disciples He said, “Follow Me, and I will make You fishers of men.” Mark 1:17

2. Just prior to ascending back to Heaven, He commanded those same men to, “Go therefore and make disciples.”

NOTE: The word “make” implies that becoming a disciple involves an ongoing process with a specific outcome in mind.

3. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote, “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

NOTE: The word “perfect” means to bring to a desired end, to accomplish, perfect, execute, and complete.

4. We are currently focusing on the six, definitive statements Jesus made related to becoming a disciple; a mature, fully functioning, follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Last week we dealt with the foundational principle related to becoming a disciple, and that principle is, we must come to love Jesus supremely.

6. If we do not love Jesus supremely, we are not going to carry our own cross and follow Him.

NOTE: We will be constantly conflicted because of competing loves that control us.

I. Becoming Jesus’s disciple includes taking up our own cross and following Him.

A. These words were spoken at a time when taking up one’s cross meant only one thing: death.

B. The Apostles had probably witnessed several Roman executions by crucifixion.

C. They had never witnessed a crucifixion where the person involved did so willingly.

Matt 16:21-23

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. 22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; **for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.**"

NOTE: Jesus went where God wanted Him to go, He suffered what God wanted Him to suffer, and He died the death He needed to die in order to fulfill God’s plan and purpose for His life.

D. A true disciple is someone who, like Jesus, has died to this world and embraced God’s plan and purpose for his or her life regardless of what that might mean for him or her.

II. Becoming Jesus' disciple involves setting our minds on God's interest, and not man's

A. We see this principle clearly stated in Matthew 10:37-39.

"He who loves (and take pleasure in) father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

B. Paul admonished us to, "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory." Colossians 3:1-4

III. The Apostle Paul is a good example of what is called for.

A. Galatians 2:20-21

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, **who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**"

NOTE: Paul saw himself, and taught others, that we are God's purchased possessions, and it was Jesus who paid the purchase price.

1. On his final visit with the leaders of the Church at Ephesus he told them, "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. 26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 "**Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**" Acts 20:25-28

2. To the confused, worldly, and self-centered believers in Corinth he wrote, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 **For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**" 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

B. Our approach to life should mirror Paul's approach. Philippians 3:7-16.

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the **surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10 **that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.** 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies

behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

NOTE: Amplified Bible, verse 11

“That if possible I may attain to the spiritual and moral resurrection that lifts me out from among the dead even while in the body.”

APPLICATION

1. Knowing Jesus should be our chief joy in life.
2. Pressing on should be evident in our lives.
3. Becoming a genuine, mature disciple of Jesus Christ should be the defining desire in our life.