

THE RESULTS OF FOLLOWING JESUS

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

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Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 14:25-35

1. As Jesus was gathering together the twelve men who would become His Disciples, He extended an invitation to them, and He also made a promise to them. Mark 1:16-20
As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "**Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.**" 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. 19 Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him.
2. In Luke 5:10-11 we read the following, "And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.' 11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him."
3. Here we see a cause and effect; those who truly follow Jesus become fishers and catchers of men.
4. We know that we have caught someone for Christ when they publicly identify with Jesus Christ through believers baptism, they begin to live a life characterized by obedience to Him, and they appropriate and trust in His presence and power on an ongoing basis.
5. As Jesus was preparing His disciples for His death and departure back to Heaven He made them a promise. John 14:25-26
"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."
6. After being filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost what specific statements, related to being a disciple, would the Holy Spirit bring to their remembrance?
7. As they set out to make disciples what guiding principles would they follow?
8. Three of those guiding principles are found in Luke 14:25-35, and the other three are found in the Gospel of John.
 - a, Luke 14:25-26
Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."
 - b. Luke 14:27-28
"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."
 - c. Luke 14:33
"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."

d. John 8:31-32

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

e. John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

f. John 15:8

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."

9. This message will focus on the first principle or precept, which has to do with our love for Jesus.

I. You cannot be my disciple if you do not love Me supremely.

A. If we are Christians, it is because we have:

1. Received a new mind—a mind capable of understanding the Gospel.
2. Come to understand the issues of sin, righteousness, and judgment.
3. Come to understand the magnitude of God's love for us as it was manifested in and through Jesus Christ.
4. Embraced, by grace through faith, Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

B. Those who do not love Jesus supremely have yet to fully understand the issues of man's sinfulness over against the greatness of God's mercy, grace and love.

C. The point Jesus was making was that a person who loved others, or other things, more than they loved Him would never follow Him fully.

D. A person who "loved his own life," more than they loved Jesus would be constantly calculating what following Jesus would cost him.

II. You will not obey Me if you do not love Me supremely. John 14:21-24

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

A. In the Bible love has more to do with what we do, as opposed to what we say.

B. Based on what Jesus said here, no person can claim to love Jesus who is not actively obeying Him.

NOTE: It is ridiculous to claim to be a follower of Jesus Christ if we are not actually following Him and actively living the life He wants us to live.

C. Those who love Jesus supremely will keep His word and live in intimate fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, through the indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit.

III. Enabling us to love Jesus supremely is the preeminent work of the Holy Spirit.

- A. Prior to His departure Jesus made a great promise to His followers. John 14:15-18
"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you (In the person of the Holy Spirit).
- B. The fruit of the Spirit's presence is first of all love. Gal 5:22-26
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
NOTE: We cannot know the joy and peace that characterized the earthly life of Jesus apart from love for Him.
- C. Those who are filled with and walk by the Spirit will love Jesus supremely, while being an instrument of His love in the lives of those around them.
- D. Love for God, and His Christ, must be the master motivation behind all that we do, and if it is, our lives will reflect that reality.

APPLICATION

1. We live in a selfish, self-centered world, and it is not easy to avoid getting caught up in that which is all around us.
2. Prior to going to the Cross Jesus prayed, "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. 14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16 "**They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.** 17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth." John 17:13-19
3. When we love Jesus supremely we will be numbered with those who know what it is to be in the world, but not of the world.