

What Does It Mean To Be A Disciple?

Luke 9:22 saying, *“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day.”*

23And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

24“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.

25“For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

26“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

I. You must want to be like Jesus – *“if anyone wishes to come after me”*

A disciple is someone who follows with the intent to become like the one they follow.

Being a disciple takes more than a fear of going to Hell. What was Jesus like?

Philippians 2: 5 *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,*

6who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but ^aemptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

8Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

II. You must deny yourself - *“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it”.*

There can only be one master of your life – either Jesus is in charge or you are.

If God is your copilot, you are sitting in the wrong seat. Sin always has an “I” in it’s center.

Galations 2:20 *“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.*

III. You must take up your cross daily

Your cross is not a sickness, or a disability, or a difficult situation, or even the threat of death.

Your cross is God’s purpose for your life.

Taking up your cross is not a one-time event, it is a way of life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

18Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

19namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

IV. You must follow him

Being a disciple is not just knowing or wanting or believing, but doing and becoming.

James 2:18 *But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”*

19You believe that ^aGod is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

20But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

2 Peter 1:4 *For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

5Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge,

6and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

8For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

10Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

11for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

V. Conclusion

If being a disciple of Christ is so demanding and so difficult and costs us so much, why should we even try? Because, paradoxically, by dying to self and giving total obedience to the Lord we gain true freedom and peace.

We spend most of our lives ruled by fear.

We fear loss of control, so we cannot truly serve.

We fear rejection, so we cannot truly love.

We fear death, so we are unable to truly live.

We fear losing what we have, so we are unable to fully receive.

When we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus:

We can serve one another without losing anything.

We can love one another, because we are loved with a love that never fails.

We can live a life that is eternal and untouchable by death.

We give our all to God, so we have nothing to lose.

Jim Elliot said, “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose”.

25 “For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”

Judas is the ultimate example of someone who appears to be a disciple but is not, and that did not turn out well.

Invitation

Living for Jesus -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTvaHOI0Hwc&list=RDEMv-I3bT9MuzPV3yeq_Sqyg&index=2