

DISCIPLESHIP OF CHRIST

Lesson # 1 – “Do you want to be a disciple?”

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:34-38

Introduction:

1. Many claim to be disciples of Jesus. Many will also claim to have the desire to follow Him.
2. One should understand all the parameters that come with being a disciple of Christ.
3. These parameters include:

I. BEGINS WITH DESIRE

A. ALL THINGS BEGIN WITH DESIRE

1. Temptation begins with desire -Ja 1:12-14
2. Righteousness works begins with desire -1Ti 3:1

B. MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. Some were only interested in the loaves and fishes -Jn 6:25-27
2. Some were secret disciples of Jesus -Jn 3:1, 2
3. Some were thinking physical kingdom and rejected Jesus when He did not meet expectation -Jn 6:66

II. CONTINUES WITH ACTION

A. ONE MUST DENY HIMSELF

1. This is what Jesus exemplified in His own life:
 - a. Coming to the earth as man -Ph 2:5-8
 - b. He came to do the will of the Father -Jn 4:34; 5:30; 6:38
 - c. The Garden of Gethsemane -Lk 22:42
2. We too must deny ourselves to become His disciples
 - a. Like the apostle Paul -Ga 2:20
 - b. We live for Christ; He is the first priority in our lives

B. TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

1. Jesus took up His cross; we must take up ours.
2. We are not persuaded to alter directions based on outward pressures
3. We are going to be steadfast in the Lord to the very end -Mt 10:22
-E.g. The fiery furnace

C. FOLLOW ME

1. It is not an easy path
 - a. There are different trials one must go through to enter heaven's gates -Ac 14:22
 - b. Those who desire to live righteously will suffer persecution -2Ti 3:12
2. It is worth it in the end
 - a. Assurance of the resurrection -2Co 5:1-8
 - b. Those who endure will be awarded the crown of life -Re 2:10

III. NOTED BY THE WARNING AND ASSURANCE OF CHRIST

A. HE WHO WOULD SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOOSE IT

1. One can choose to live it up for now, but know the warning
2. The pleasures of sin is temporal -He 11:25
3. Life ends and then judgment -2Co 5:9-11, He 9:27

B. HE WHO LOOSES HIS LIFE WILL FIND IT

1. One may lose his physical life in service to God -Ac 7:56; 12:1-ff
2. The spiritual life in Christ can never be taken away by any man

a. We do not fear those who can hurt the body -Mt 11:28-30

b. No one can take us out of the hand of the Father -Jn 10:29

Conclusion:

1. The Christian life is not always the easiest life to live, but it is the greatest life one can live.
2. It gives us great joy to know that our eternal destiny is with the Lord and that He is with us every step of the way.