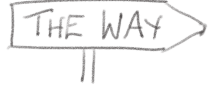


Discipleship + Community



“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What is a Disciple? You've got to follow your teacher... As Christians we are to follow Jesus. Christians were originally called “followers of the way” before they got the name “Christians” which literally means “little Christs”.



Following Jesus will cost you Everything..

Subconsciously many of us have swallowed the lie of Christian Entitlement. Deep down there is a subtle feeling in us that we are entitled to good things in life because of our commitment to God. Avoiding promiscuity leads to a fulfilled marriage, tithing avoids financial disaster and brings in blessing, honesty at work leads to promotion etc. This is not biblical! We think that life should get better and better as we get what we are entitled to after our service to God. Suffering and hardship don't fit into this and we end up questioning why those times come. Covid has been a nasty wake up call from this mindset.

Let's think of these biblical characters; John the Baptist, Paul, Stephen, James and Peter... think how they were executed, whipped, murdered and flogged with much suffering and hardship.

The western church doesn't reflect this well at all. Jesus makes it so clear that the cost of following him is everything. Jesus keeps saying this.

When you follow Jesus you will discover what you were made for...

This is the big secret! When you truly follow Jesus you find out that it's really not actually a cost! (Phil 3:8). It doesn't feel like a cost because what you receive is so rich so valuable so attractive and so unobtainable without Christ. “At its heart biblical faith is the creed of the anti-hero; It's the the story of men and women who come to the end of themselves and must discover God.” Mark Sayers.

Questions to ask myself

- In what way is following Jesus costing me?
- What have I given up to follow Jesus?
- How does my life look different to the unbelieving people's life around me?
- Am I laying my life down for Christ and for others?

If your discipleship hasn't cost you everything then you probably haven't met with Jesus...

What am I holding on to?
My reputation? Relationships?
Career? Future? Anxiety?
My Character flaws?
Weaknesses?
Habit I know is wrong?

The world won't satisfy... but following Jesus you will have abundant joy. Don't waste years of your life, it's an adventure far better and far beyond what you previously thought.

PRAY

God is so kind and gentle with us, and don't forget discipleship is a journey. Our culture is aggressively anti-Jesus and to stand still is actually to drift away from him. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak into your situation. Ask him to reveal to you that barrier you have in front of you. Look again at the answers you gave to the questions above and pray into them.