

Demands Of Discipleship

Sunday AM 07/11/21

Introduction:

Three times the Lord said you cannot be my disciple unless we do something, **v. 26, 27, 33**. Jesus is talking about His demands on His disciples. Unfortunately a lot of people, Christians included, balk at the idea of making sacrifices, and their religion having a cost attached to it. They view religion as God with benefits, give me the privileges but not the cost.

I) Background

A) What is a disciple?

1. A learner or student of; one who takes what he hears and puts it into action. He is practitioner of something.
2. **18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:18-20**
3. Go make disciples of all nations teaching them to observe (to follow).

B) A disciple must

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32

1. Abide in, continue in, stay in the word
2. We read of those who were disciples of Moses, John the Baptist, and Jesus. There must be a master or teacher for one to be a disciple.
3. A Christian is a follower of Christ, **Acts 11.26**.

C) More than a title

1. Our sign reads "Church of Christ" but some churches have the same phrase but they are not really followers of Christ.
2. We may call ourselves Christians or disciples of Christ but are we really following Christ?

II) **What are the demands of discipleship?**

26 *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

Luke 14:26

A) **God must come before family**

1. To hate is hyperbole -- "When more is said than is literally meant"
 - a. Hyper -- over and above or beyond.
 - b. Bole -- a casting, to throw.
 - c. Literally to cast or go beyond, overshoot, to exaggerate.
2. To hate here means to love less than. We must love these less than Jesus.
 - a. The blood of Christ must be stronger than our own family's blood.
 - b. **37** *He who loves 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. **Matthew 10:37*** is a parallel account; to love more than me is not worthy of Me.
3. Who comes first in our lives?
 - a. Jesus or our spouse? Do we allow a spouse to draw us away from God?
 - b. Our children or Jesus? Do we change our beliefs when it affects our family?

- c. Do we allow relatives who come right before services to stop us from coming?

B) God must come before self

27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. Luke 14:27

- 1. Principle first stated in **verse 26**
- 2. We must bear the cross. What does this mean?

- a. Before my fleshly desire,

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, Titus 2:11-12

- i. The grace of God is connected to the word of God
- ii. The grace of God teaches us, instructs us.
- iii. To deny ungodliness -- which is a disrespect and disregard for God. To be irreligious.
- iv. Worldly lust --***Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17*** Lust is inordinate or unlawful desire.

- b. Our personal comfort, **28 Then Peter began to say to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You.” Mark 10:28**

- i. **v. 29 So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or**

*sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, **Mark 10:29**, we must hate these things*

- ii. **v. who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—**Mark 10:30a**** He speaks of our spiritual family which we will gain
- iii. but this will come with persecution. We today have religious liberty but it may change.

3. **Luke 14.27** what is Jesus really saying?

- a. Rome crucified people for a reason; to intimidate and put fear into people
- b. Jesus had to bear His cross on the way to Calvary.
- c. See a person bearing a cross meant they were already dead.
- d. We might have to die for the Lord, **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. **Revelation 2:10****

C) **Must count the cost**

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? **Luke 14:28-30**

- 1. The cost is from start to finish. Cost of a house is not just the foundation, or the walls, but everything in the house.
- 2. Some people are baptized but then fall away; they had not counted the cost.
- 3. We must make the commitment to count the cost.
 - a. Watching Tim Tebow on ESPN as he trained for his first year in

the NFL.

- b. He one time said "no one will out work us, or play harder than we will."
- c. How about us? We must study, stand for the truth, defend the truth, etc.

- 4. Our services are training services. Do I have to go to all the services?
Yes

D) War and Peace

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. **Luke 14:31-32**

- 1. We are soldiers, we are at war with the devil, sin, and the flesh.
- 2. **Titus 2.5-9** addressed to elders.

*For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you— 6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. **Titus 1:5-9***

- a. Verse 9 be able to exhort and convict or stop false teachers.
- b. Must out teach them, *For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole*

households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. Titus 1:10-11

3. **Jude 3** addressed to all Christians
4. There is also a time for peace to be peace makers. Some brethren have not learned this lesson.
 - a. **Ecc. 3.8 " A time of war, and a time of peace". Romans 12.18; 19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:19**
 - b. Blessed are the peace makers (first must make peace with God)

E) Luke 14.33 Wraps it all together

33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. Luke 14:33

1. Must be willing to forsake all, everything already mentioned plus everything else.
 - a. Cell phone, computer, hobbies, car, house, money, ballgames, my times, social status.
 - b. God must come before the brethren.

42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John 12:42-43

Conclusion:

The price might be high but look at what you gain. A spiritual family, fellowship with God, the avenue of prayer, eternal life in heaven.