

BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

Mt.16:24-27

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. According to W.E. Vine, Vol. I, 316, the Gr. word MATHETES () translated “disciple” in our English language literally means: “a learner ...in contrast to a teacher; hence it denotes one who follows one’s teaching, as:
 - a. “The disciples of John,” Mt.9:14; Lk.11:1.
 - b. The disciples of the Pharisees, Mt.22:15,16.
 - c. The disciples of Moses, Jno.9:28.
 - d. The disciples of Jesus, Lk.11:1; Jno.9:28.
2. It is used of the disciples of Jesus (Vine, I, 316)
 - a. In a wide sense, of Jews who became his adherents for a time, Lk.6:17; Jno.6:66, some being secretly so, Jno.19:28.
 - b. Especially of the twelve Apostles, Mt.10:1; Lk.22:8-11, e.g.
 - c. Of all who manifest that they are his disciples by abiding in his word, Jno.8:30,31; 13:34,35; 15:8.
 - d. In the book of Acts, of those who believed upon Him and were obedient to the faith, Ac.6:1,2,7; 14:20-22,28; 15:10,11;18:27,28; 19:1-5.
3. Thus a disciple of Jesus was and is not only a pupil or a learner, but an adherent, a follower of him. Vine, I, 316. (See again Jno.8:31; 15:8)
4. Often times in Bible times one’s disciples literally followed after him.
5. In this lesson on being a disciple of Jesus, we are thinking of and emphasizing the thought of existing – continuing to be – his disciple!

II. DISCUSSION

A. TECHNICALLY AND/OR SPECIFICALLY SPEAKING, BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS MEANS

1. One who has by faith been baptized into a spiritual relationship with him, Mt.28:18-20 (ASV).
2. One who has become a Christian, Ac.11:26. Cf. 1Pet.4:16; Jas.2:7.
3. One who has become an imitator of Jesus, 1Pet.2:21.
4. One who has become a person who abides in the doctrine of Christ, 2Jno.9.

5. One who has become a totally submissive, daily cross-bearing follower of Jesus as his Master, Mt.16:24-27; Lk.6:46; Mt.7:21-29.
6. One who has been reconciled unto God in Christ and is the receiver of the spiritual blessings all of which are provided by God in Christ, 2Cor.5:17-20; Eph.1:3-7; 2:13-19.
7. One who not only has been born of him and of God to become a new creature in Christ, but one who **stands born of God**, or continues to be born of God, 1Jno.2:28,29; 5:1,4,18.
8. All others are alienated from God and his spiritual blessings in Christ and therefore are without hope.
9. That we thus have reference to **DISCIPLESHP**, or “the state of a disciple or follower in doctrines and precepts.” – Webster.

B. QUESTION: HOW IMPORTANT MUST OUR DISCIPLESHP BE TO US?

1. More important than friendship.
 - a. As disciples of Jesus Christ we believe, obey, teach, practice and defend the doctrine of Christ even when friends are involved, and even if it hinders or alienates our friends.. Cf. Rom.12:18; Heb. 12:14; Eph.5:11; 2Cor.6:14-7:1.
 - b. As important as friends and their friendship to us is they are not so important as override our discipleship to Jesus!
2. More important than the good will of and the unity among brethren in matters of faith, or peace at any price.
 - a. Jesus prayed for unity among brethren, Jno.17:20,21.
 - b. His apostles taught the necessity of it, 1Cor.1:10-13. Cf. Psa.133:1,2.
 - c. But unity for unity’s sake and/or peace at any price is not taught in the Bible. Rather, it is condemned. See 1Cor.4:6; 5:1-13; Gal.2:11-14; 4:10-16; 1Th.5:14; 2Th.3:6,14,15; Mt.18:15-17.
3. More important than maintaining acceptance with close physical family, Mt.10:32-37; Lk.14:25,26.
 - a. We love our “kin” and appreciate their love and concern for us.
 - b. We value the love, companionship, and blessings of family extended to us.
 - c. But as disciples of Jesus Christ we must put discipleship above kinship if and when circumstances demand that we must make a choice between loyalty to family and loyalty to Jesus in matters of faith and practice in serving the Lord.

- d. Kinship is never so important that pressure however great from that source is to be allowed to turn us from faithful discipleship and cross-bearing for Jesus Christ. Cf. 1Cor.10:31; Gal.1:10; Col.3:17.
- 4. More important than hardship amidst trials, tribulations, and persecutions for righteousness sake.
 - a. Such will come to the faithful, 2Tim.3:12. Cf. Ac.14:21,22.
 - b. They are the common lot of all believers, 1Cor.10:13a; 1Th.2:14,15; Heb.10:32-34; 1Pet.5:8,9.
 - c. In view of this, consider the words:
 - (1) Of Jesus in Mt.5:10-12.
 - (2) Of Peter in 1Pet.4:12-19.
 - (3) Of Paul in 1Cor.10:12,13; Rom.8:16-18.
 - (4) Of James in Jas.1:12.
 - (5) Of Jesus in Lk.14:27-33.
- 5. More important than one's own physical life, Mt.10:28; 16:24-26; Lk.14:26; Rev.2:10; 12:11.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. If we profess to be disciples of Jesus Christ, it's a matter of faith:
 - a. Faith in him as the Son of God, the Savior of sinners.
 - b. Faith in his word by which we are saved and shall be judged.
- 2. It's a matter of faith and obedience –absolute submission to him as our Lord and Master and of daily cross-bearing.
- 3. It's a matter of loving one another as he has loved us – which is sacrificial love, Jno.13:34,35; Jno.14:15,21,23,24; 1Jno.5:2,3; 2:3-6; 2:24,25; Jude 21.
- 4. Being a disciple of Jesus is something we must by faith continually work at trusting the grace of God manifesting in Jesus Christ.