

THE MAKING OF A DISCIPLE



Background Reading:

Matthew 4:19-22; 10:25;
Luke 14:26-27; John 8:31;
13:34-35; 15:8; Acts 2:42;
9:36

Devotional Reading:

Luke 14:26-33



Central Verse

Then said Jesus unto His disciples,
“If any man will come after me, let
him deny himself, and take up his
cross, and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24, KJV

Then Jesus said to His disciples,
“Whoever wants to be my disciple
must deny themselves and take up
their cross and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24, NIV

Key Terms

Agenda—a list or outline of things to be considered or done: an underlying often ideological plan or program.

Process—a natural phenomenon marked by gradual changes that lead toward a particular result: a series of actions or operations leading to a result.

Lamented—mourned for.

Introduction

Jesus gives every believer the privilege to become His disciple. Every believer whether he is a man or a woman, can become a follower of Jesus. A disciple follows the opinions and teachings of another. He accepts and assists in spreading the doctrine of another. Jesus' followers are people who embrace His teachings and believe His gospel, which says, that He came from His Father and was born of a virgin, His Father is God. He died on a cross, was buried in a grave, stayed there three days and nights, got up out of the grave and ascended back to heaven, and is now at the right hand of His Father, interceding for His saints. Romans 8:14: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

Discussion

It is the will of God that believers become disciples of Jesus Christ. In John six and forty-four, Jesus tells the believer, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him and I will raise him at the last day". So, becoming a disciple of Jesus is not entirely controlled by individuals and their human decisions, but God's divine will must have some say so in that action.

There must be some (want to) down in a person's heart, and God deals with that heart. John 8:31 lets believers know that believing and accepting Jesus' Word has its part in becoming a disciple of Jesus. Several scriptures can help believers know that without the Word or the scripture, there cannot be any joining with Jesus. An essential part of following Jesus is His Word which must become rooted and grounded in the heart of the believer. He learns to fall in love with Jesus' Word.

The believer cannot come on his own. Jesus said so many different times in the scripture. He says in (John 15:16) that the believer did not choose Him, but that He chose him and appointed him that he should go and bear fruit and that his fruit should remain. The believer must learn the true meaning and learn the characteristic of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

He said, there are some things a person must do to become my disciple. It is not enough to just desire to be His disciple, the believer must make up his mind that he is willing to deny himself. He must be willing to let go and let Jesus do the leading in his life. He must be willing to embrace suffering and follow Him. He must be willing to make self-sacrifices, which includes losing himself because as he loses himself, he will find his true self.

Discipleship is a process that believers go through, knowing that they do not belong to themselves. Because Jesus paid an awesome price for each believer when He gave His life on the cross. Whether a believer is in the beginning stages of discipleship or has become a mature believer, the process is a lifelong journey. The Holy Spirit is with the believer to remind him of his commitment to Jesus and to remind him that Jesus is always there to move on his behalf.

Jesus wants believers to be kind and caring to one another. He wants them to help one another, but Jesus wants them to show and live love, for He said by love men will know that they are His disciple. As disciples grow in knowing Jesus, they learn to trust Him and become more like Him in his looks as well as his actions. The believer learns to move from being fearful to being faithful and as he journeys with Christ he grows as he goes.

Lesson 3 • Third Week

Many men and women followed Jesus wherever He went when He was here on earth. Sometimes it is easy to follow and be with a person when you can see them and receive benefits from being with them. But, when a person is left alone and cannot see or touch someone, it becomes difficult to follow them. Luke 23:27 "And there followed Him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented Him."

Joseph of Arimathea was a disciple of Jesus, (John 19:38), secretly because he feared the Jew's disapproval. Timotheus was a disciple, (Acts 16:1), Tabitha, who was called Dorcas, was a woman full of good works, (Acts 9:36), and Ananias was a disciple at Damascus, (Acts 9:10). Paul came to Ephesus and found certain disciples who did not have the Holy Ghost. These are just some of the times the Scriptures mentioned men and women from different walks of life, who made decisions to follow Jesus. Jesus will pick a person out of the gutter and make him into a powerful disciple of the kingdom, but only when the believer is willing and obedient to follow Him. He must be willing to go through the process, the discipline, the hurt, the pain of self-denial, the putting aside of his agenda and allowing Jesus's agenda to become his.

Conclusion

The Believer's love and faith in Jesus allows him to share the gospel with joyful enthusiasm. As a disciple he is called to share the good news of Jesus Christ. He can share about the comfort provided by the righteousness of Christ in his life, for he knows the riches of God's grace in his life. Becoming a good disciple is about obedience to the will of God and obeying Him and His Son.

Questions

1. Who can become a disciple of Jesus Christ?
 2. What are the benefits of being a disciple of Jesus Christ?
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Essential Thought

To become a disciple of Jesus, the believer must become a disciplined follower.