

Lesson 7: The Cost of Discipleship

The word "disciple" means _____. Jesus did not come to earth to win fans or audiences. He does not want churches full of people, if those people are just putting in time or trying to fulfill some religious obligation. Jesus wants our hearts. He wants *disciples*.

John 8:31

What are Christ's disciples like? _____

John 13:34-35

How will people know that you are a disciple of Christ? _____

John 15:8

Many people with their words say they are disciples of Jesus. Do our words or intentions make us Christ's disciples? _____

How do we become Christ's disciples according to Jesus' words here? _____

Many people will get excited about Christ and His Church for a little while. They will be studying God's Word and producing fruit. But many soon get cold and start to go back to their old ways. They begin to drift away from Christ and His church. How can we keep this from happening to us? Jesus shows us the way in Luke 14:26-33. We want to examine this section in detail.

Verse 26

Is it wrong to love our family and care for them? _____

What keeps people from truly being Christ's disciples? _____

Verse 27

A Word of Explanation: At the time of Christ the Roman Empire ruled the world. The Romans practiced crucifixion as their way of putting criminals to death. They would make the

condemned man carry his own cross through the streets to the place of crucifixion. Therefore, if you lived in those days and saw a man carrying a cross being led by soldiers through the streets, you were seeing a dead man. In a short time that man would suffocate, he would be without breath.

Christ here says that in order to be His disciples, we must follow Him, carrying our cross. The Bible says that we must die to self. What does it mean to die to self or carry the cross?

The cost of following Christ is to give up control or ownership of anything we have. He says that before we decide to be His disciples we should first count the cost. That means we must ask ourselves if we are willing to give up our own control over our lives and everything in them, and turn the control over to Christ. In the next verses in this section, Christ gives us examples of what it means to count the cost.

Verse 28-32

Why do so many begin to follow Christ, but soon give up? _____

Verse 33

What must we understand if we want to follow Christ? _____

How do you know that you can trust God with your life and with everything? _____

Luke 9:57-62

What is the point of this section? _____

Romans 12:1-2

In verse 1, what should we do? _____

Why should we offer ourselves to God? _____

In verse 2, what happens when we offer ourselves to God? _____

What is the result of offering ourselves to God (v. 2)? _____

Luke 9:24 -26

How can a person save his life? _____

What does it mean here to lose our lives? _____

Why does Jesus have such high standards for His followers? _____

Why do we want to give Jesus this kind of commitment? _____

Homework

1. This week, examine your life. Are there things in your life that you are unwilling to give up if Christ asks you to? Are there some things that are hurting your following Christ completely? Are there some things in your life that you are selfishly hanging on to, things which are hurting your service to your family and others? Do you have an attitude or habit or activity in your life that is selfish. What is there in your own life that needs to die so that you can live in the victory of your life in Christ. Don't ignore this process. Confess it, reject it, and pray for the power to put it to death and keep it dead.
2. Continue to work on setting aside your quiet time for private study of God's Word and prayer. If you have not started this yet, get at it. Start small, maybe five or ten minutes a day.
3. Write a brief prayer talking to God about dying to self, taking up your cross and following Him. Rededicate yourself completely to God. If there are any areas of your life that you have not surrendered to him, do that in this prayer.