

# Demands of Discipleship

LUKE 14:25-35

## What is a “disciple”?

From the Greek word *mathetes*, “a learner” – an “adherent,” “follower,” and “imitator of their teacher.”

One who is being taught and trained. Matthew 28:19; Luke 6:40, “**Thought accompanied by endeavor**” (Vine). “Adherent who accepts the instruction given to him and makes it his **rule of conduct**” (Zodhiates) – Not a passive role!

One who follows another’s teaching.

The invitation has been extended! Matthew 11:29, “... *learn from Me* ...”

## Our relationship with Jesus

Simply described as “*The Teacher*” – Matthew 26:18; John 13:13-14

- Will we seek the opportunities to sit at His feet? Luke 10:38-42

## Jesus Christ – The Master Teacher

He taught with a specific purpose in mind.

- To provoke study, thought, and motivation to seek the truth. Matthew 7:7-8; 2 Timothy 2:15
- To prepare men for the future – for judgment. Matthew 7:24-27; John 12:48
- To provide for the salvation of man. Luke 19:10; Matthew 25:1ff
- To “*make disciples.*” Matthew 28:18-20

## Consider these demands of “true” discipleship ...

## Exercising our will

Matthew 16:24-27, “*if anyone wishes (would, will, desire) to come after Me ...*”

- We have to want to!
- Not just wanting, but the word also conveys the idea of **pressing into action. Translating desire into execution.**
- Thus, we have a choice.
- Are we “**willing to do His will**”? John 7:17; Psalms 51:12

## Loving Jesus Christ More ...

**Than Others** (Luke 14:26) *"... he cannot be My disciple."*

- More than my family? Matthew 10:37
- Do you want to go to heaven more than anything or anyone else?
- The "great" command, *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind"* (Matthew 22:36)
- Consider Jesus' questioning of Peter in John 21:15ff.

## Loving Jesus Christ More ...

**Than Self** (Luke 14:26) *"... he cannot be My disciple."*

The "crown of life" is only for those who are, *"faithful unto death"* (Revelation 2:10)

We can overcome only if we do *"not love (our) life even when faced with death."* (Revelation 12:11)

What will it take to make us quit?

## Loving Others

John 13:34-35, *"... love one another ... by this all men will know that you are My disciples"*

- A badge of discipleship.
- Not a selfish love, but a love that is described in 1 Corinthians 13. Considering others more important: Philippians 2:3
- Patient, helpful, and understanding with the weaknesses, faults, shortcomings of others. (1 Thessalonians 5:14) – Tolerant of sin? No!
- Ready to extend forgiveness. (cf. Luke 23:34; Ephesians 4:32)

## Willing to Sacrifice and Deny

Luke 14:27, *"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."*

Luke 9:23, *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

- #1 problem is selfishness.
- We are not *"our own"* (1 Corinthians 6:19) and our view of life must be as Paul's when he said, *"It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me ..."* (Galatians 2:20)

## Detaching from the things of this life.

Jesus stated, *"... no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions"*. (Luke 14:33)

- Considering all our earthly gains to be loss in view of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord. Philippians 3:7-9
- True discipleship requires a separation from earthly things. Matthew 19:21
- It's more than giving up what we have, it's giving up who we are. *"... they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God"* (2 Corinthians 8:5)

## Continuing In His Word

*"... if you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine."* (John 8:31)

- Not only listen, but follow.
- A disciple diligently studies the Bible and abides therein. 2 Timothy 2:15
- We must be careful to therefore not go beyond that which our Master taught. 2 John 9-11; 1 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 4:11; Colossians 3:17.
- **"Lord, Lord"** is not enough to be His disciple

## Bearing Much Fruit

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John 15:8, "... that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples."

◦ Notice the progression of fruit-bearing in this context. "Fruit" (verse 2), and "much fruit" (verses 5, 8).

◦ We are to bear the fruit of prayer, obedience, joy, and love (John 15:7,10-12)

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- Included (but not limited to) would be winning others to Christ. (Proverbs 11:30; cf. Galatians 5:22-23)
- It means we get to work for our Master's cause & make ourselves useful. 1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:21

## Emulating Our Master and Teacher

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Matthew 10:24-25, "... It is enough for the disciple that he become as his teacher and the slave as his master."

- We're to follow Him. Luke 14:27.
- On the same terms? Hebrews 4:14-16.
- Our purpose – to be conformed to the image of His Son. Romans 8:28-29.
- Our work – that Christ be formed in each one of us. Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:12-13.

## Bottom line?

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Do His will – Matthew 12:46-50

Finish what we start and complete our training. Luke 6:40; Philippians 2:12, 2 Timothy 2:21