

Demands Of Discipleship

What is a “disciple”?

- From the Greek word “mathetes”, “a learner” – an “adherent”, “follower” & “imitator of their teacher”.
- One who is being taught and trained. Matthew 28:19; Luke 6:40, “Thought accompanied by endeavor” – Not a passive role!
- One who follows another’s teaching.
- The invitation has been extended! Matthew 11:29

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? I must love Christ more. 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*” (Rev. 2:10)
 - Stephen was stoned because of his love & commitment to Christ. (Acts 7:59-60)
 - James was beheaded (Acts 12:1-2)
 - Paul was imprisoned and later to be executed (Acts 21:13; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)
 - What will it take to make us quit?

Willing To Sacrifice & Deny

- **Luke 9:23, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."**
- **Luke 14:27, "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."**
 - #1 problem is selfishness.
 - I cannot be first!
 - We are not "**our own**" (1 Corinthians 6:19) and our view of life must be as Paul's when he said, "**It's no longer I who live but Christ lives in me...**" (Gal. 2:20)

Forsaking All

- Jesus stated, "...no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions". (Luke 14:33)
 - Not only involves our allegiance to money & **material things**, but also **those we love & everything that we cling to**.
 - Considering **all our earthly gains to be loss in view of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord**. (Philippians 3:7-9)
 - 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 Cor. 8:5)

Continuing In His Word

- **"...if you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine."** (John 8:31)
 - This means that one must not only listen to God's word, but **he must follow the things he learns**.
 - A person cannot be a disciple who **never studies the Bible and abides therein**.
 - 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.

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 is a love that is described in 1 Corinthians 13.
 - Patient, helpful and understanding 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)

Bearing Much Fruit

- **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)
 - 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 & Teacher

- **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?

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