

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE READING: John 6:60-70, John 8:30-36, John 13:34-35, Matt 28:19-20

MEMORY VERSE: John 8:31-32

PURPOSE: To cause us to think about our relationship with the Lord. To have us examine ourselves and make the necessary changes and adjustments to our lives in order to be disciples of the blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON: As you prepare to study this course pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and determine within yourself that you will do as HE directs. Read the scriptures at the head of each lesson prayerfully. Then read the comments. Think about what you are reading. Then to the best of your ability in your own words answer the questions as you believe the Holy Spirit would want you to.

I DISCIPLESHIP DEFINED

A. The Disciple:

1. "A learner"; "one who follows ones teachings"; "to learn". The Greek word indicates THOUGHT accompanied by ENDEAVOR. Thus we have, "one who THINKS upon or considers the teachings of another and then puts forth the **necessary effort** or applies himself to PUT IN TO PRACTICE the teachings or instructions he receives".

II SOME ASPECTS OF DISCIPLESHIP TO CONSIDER

A. The Teacher:

1. John the Baptist had his disciples, the Pharisees had theirs, Moses had his and today JESUS has HIS. Every disciple has someone who they listen to and follow.

2. Today there are all kinds and types of teachers trying to get people to follow them and their teachings. There are various CULTS, RELIGIONS, DENOMINATIONS, PREACHERS, SO CALLED WISE MEN, INDIVIDUALS AND CHURCHES, there are even DEMONIC SPIRITS who attempt to use ANY means possible to seduce or trick people into believing a lie.

3. The TRUE DISCIPLE of Christ has three primary teachers and they ALL agree. JESUS, the HOLY SPIRIT and the WORD (Bible).

A. Willful Submission to the Teacher:

1. A commitment is made on the disciple's part. "I will listen, I will consider and I will obey or apply in my own life the teachings, instructions and directions given."

2. If a disciple's commitment is not steadfast or sure then his discipleship will be shaken. He will cease to be a disciple and become a mere believer. He will cease to follow the Lord.

3. Willful obedience is required. "I will apply", requires not only commitment but DISCIPLINE.

A. The Example Given

1. As disciples (followers) we learn not only from the words spoken but from the EXAMPLE given. The actions, lifestyle of the teacher, His character, His attitudes, His motives and His desires. A duplicate is being made. Eventually a true disciple will develop the same CHARACTER, ATTITUDES, MOTIVES, OPINIONS etc. as his teacher.

III CONCLUSION

A. Areas of Christian development:

1. There are at least eight (8) areas of Christian development, which we need to consider and cultivate in order to become disciples. We have indicated these on our board (below) all connected to the hub, which is, labeled JESUS.

1. Daily Communion with the Lord. 1 John 15:1-4
2. Daily Word Study. 2 Timothy 2:15
3. Daily Application of the Word. James 1:22
4. Daily Prayer. Ephesians 6:17
5. Fellowship with Believers. Hebrews 10:24-25
6. Praise. Hebrews 13:15
7. Witnessing Acts 1:8
8. Spiritual Warfare. Ephesians 6:10

IV QUESTIONS

- A. Do the scriptures that we read and studied indicate that there is a difference between a disciple and a believer?
- B. If the answer to question A is yes. What is the difference?
- C. In **Matthew 28:19-20** the phrase "teach all nations" literally means to "make disciples of". As verse 20 indicates the disciples mission in this life is to "teach them to observe all things".
 1. What is your church doing about this command of Jesus?
 2. What are you doing about this command of Jesus?
 3. In your opinion are we merely making believers or are we making disciples?
- A. In **John 13:34-35** Jesus indicates the outstanding characteristic (mark or sign) of being a true disciple. What is it?
- B. In **John 6:60-71** many of Jesus' disciples quit following HIM and went away.
 1. Were they true disciples?
 2. Why do you think this is?
 3. In view of these scriptural teachings are YOU a believer or disciple?
 4. (For meditation, thought and discussion). Were the people who followed Jesus for a while and then went away, saved or lost?
 5. What does the BIBLE have to say about how a person can know that they are saved or lost? List at least three (3) scriptures:
 - A. In **John 8:36** Jesus states that a disciple will be free. What does this mean to YOU?
 1. According to the context, what is a disciple to be free from?
 - A. In your opinion, are there any real excuses for not being a disciple and following Jesus?
 - B. If your answer to G is Yes, then please list each one below. The following excuses are being used by me as good reasons for not being faithful to the Lord Jesus and for not being a disciple:
 - C. We thank you for being hones with yourself and with the Lord. There is always room for improvement, isn't there? Will you make a commitment to be a real disciple and begin to work on any excuses as the HOLY SPIRIT directs?

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS!

WE LOVE YOU!

BRO. LEWIS

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

As spokes in a wheel strengthen and share in the over all load of the wagon so our development or lack thereof of these eight (8) areas in relationship with Jesus will determine just how well we bear up under the loads of life. Jesus is always the center. All of our other developments must be centered in HIM and led by the Holy Spirit. Our focus on anyone of the spokes should never distract us from HIM. (Heb. 12: 2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;")

