

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, August 27, 2017

“Back To Reality ~ Discipleship”

Matthew 16:24-28

All of our plans and programs aside, we are called first and foremost as individuals and as a church to _____ and _____.

The Larry Principle =

We live in a world where everyone wants to be a _____, but nobody wants to be a _____—nobody wants to _____. They want the power, but not the _____; the popularity and prestige, but not the _____.

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

Disciple = *mathetes* = *discipulus* =

3 USES OF DISCIPLE IN SCRIPTURE

- Anyone who is being trained or _____ by someone else.
- It refers specifically to Jesus’ 12 selected _____.
- It became synonymous with the new term _____.

A disciple is someone who becomes a _____ of, or participant in, the _____ of another. Discipleship lies at the _____ of the Christian faith and marks the _____ of the Christian life—it involves a conscious and _____ decision to go where Jesus goes and to do what Jesus does.

It is a life-long _____ whereby we _____ ourselves and every area of our lives to the _____ of Jesus. To be a disciple carries the idea of _____—disciples of Jesus are those who are not only seeking to understand His teachings, but to live them out—they’re seeking to be like Jesus and to _____ their lives after His.

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.” (Ephesians 5:1)

many people who are satisfied having a spiritual _____ every now and

then, but haven’t stepped up to the next level of developing a spiritual _____ and living in a spiritual way.

6 VALUES OF WESTERN CULTURE

- #1. _____: The pursuit of happiness and _____ where we rely on things to make our life _____ and pain free.
- #2. _____: We value _____ instead of _____ and life is a race to see who can gather the most stuff to fill the _____ inside.
- #3. _____: We’re driven to _____ ourselves and escape daily _____ and conflict.
- #4. _____: We have so much _____ coming at us that we become _____.
- #5. _____: We become _____ to the darkness around us.
- #6. _____: Everything from microwave meals to casual sex made popular by TV and movie heroes.

In a culture governed by these values, people aren’t willing to count the _____ and pay the _____ that true Christian discipleship requires. These values may be popular in our culture today, however, they are _____ with Gospel living and _____ Christian discipleship

THE MARKS OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

#1. **True discipleship involves** _____.
“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves ...” (Matthew 16:24)

Denying ourselves doesn’t mean simply _____. Jesus’ concern here isn’t so much what we _____, but rather who we _____. Denying self means that we _____ our _____ to ourselves and the right to _____ our own lives.

Deny = *aparneomai* = ‘to affirm that one has no _____ or connection with someone; to _____ one’s self, lose _____ of one’s self and one’s own _____.

It literally means =

It involves _____ and humility. Denying ourselves doesn’t mean _____ ourselves or thinking less of ourselves—we’re of infinite value in Christ—but rather getting self completely out of the way. Denying ourselves means _____ our old sinful self and ways, that were put to _____ and buried in our baptisms seeking, with God’s help, to embrace our new _____

_____ in Christ

Self is a _____. It's so easy for everything to be about _____. Denying self means letting go of our _____ and seeking the place of humility.

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)

Denying self means _____ ourselves—giving up our _____ and admitting that we're 100% _____ on God. It means laying down our _____ for Him.

“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

Are you living the life of a disciple?

How willing are you to deny yourself and lay it all down for Christ?

#2. True discipleship involves _____.
“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross...” (Matthew 16:24)

The cross isn't those minor _____ in our lives. The cross isn't just a place of suffering—it's a place of _____. When Jesus says we're to take up our cross, He's saying that we're to _____ as though we're _____.

“I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!” (Philippians 3:10-11)

“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

The cross represents the _____ that is ours because of our _____ with Jesus.

“For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.” (Philippians 1:29)

Taking up the cross means seeing meaning and _____ in our suffering—it

means being willing to go _____ for Jesus—no holds barred and no turning back..

Are you living the life of a disciple? How far are you willing to go for Jesus?

#3. True discipleship involves _____.
“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

FOLLOWING JESUS SOMETIMES REQUIRES

- A change of _____ and _____. If we're going to follow Jesus, we need to be prepared to leave where we are and what we're doing—to change our _____, direction, and _____.
- _____. There's no time for _____ or waiting for the _____ time.

To be a disciple is to _____ follow Jesus—it's a way of life and a _____ of living. Following Jesus means getting to know Him in the kind of way that comes from spending time with Him—by _____ His word and speaking with Him in _____. Following Jesus means being _____ to Him and His _____.

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.” (Matthew 7:21)

“You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.” (John 8:31)

Following Jesus means learning to be _____ Him in every way and allowing the Holy Spirit to _____ us into His likeness. It means seeking to have the same _____ as Christ and the same _____. It's learning to trust Jesus, to believe in Him, and to hear His _____.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me...My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:1ff)

Are you living the life of a disciple? Who are you following?



We can either seek to _____ our lives and live for _____, by spending all our time and energy trying to _____ the whole world—only to forfeit our _____. Or we can seek to _____ our life, by _____ it—by living as disciples of Jesus, daily denying ourselves, taking up our cross, and following Him. We can either live in the _____ or have the _____ of life. However, before we make this choice, we need to ask ourselves if we're willing to _____ and _____.