

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, July 28, 2019

Kingdom Principles ~ The Law of Discipleship

Matthew 16:24-28

Commitment isn't an easy thing—it involves a certain level of _____, obedience, and faith. Commitment is far more than just contribution, involvement, or allegiance. True commitment involves all that we _____ and all that we _____.

“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

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A disciple is someone who becomes a _____ of, or participant in, the teachings of another. Discipleship lies at the _____ of the Christian faith and marks the _____ of the Christian life.

Discipleship involves a _____ and _____ decision to go where Jesus goes and to do what Jesus does. To be a disciple carries the idea of _____—disciples of Jesus are those who are not only seeking to _____ 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)

6 VALUES OF WESTERN CULTURE

- #1.
- #2.
- #3.
- #4.
- #5.
- #6.

3 CHARACTERISTICS 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 _____ something up.

Jesus' concern here isn't so much what we _____, but rather who we _____—denying self means that we _____ our right to ourselves and the right to _____ our own lives.

To deny self literally means =

This involves _____ and _____. Denying ourselves doesn't mean _____ ourselves or thinking less of ourselves—we're of infinite value in Christ—but rather getting self completely _____ and not thinking of self at all.

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Denying ourselves means _____ our old sinful self and ways, that were put to death and buried in our baptism and seeking, with God's help, to embrace our new _____ in Christ.

Self is a _____. When we're so focussed on self, we're unable to focus on _____ or anyone else. This _____ approach to life hinders true love of God and neighbour and keeps us from making any kind of real or lasting _____ to Jesus. Denying self means letting go of our pride and seeking the place of _____.

“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 _____ “ourselves, souls, and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice to Him.” It means _____ our lives—everything we are and everything we have—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?

Are you willing to deny yourself and lay it all down for Jesus?

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

Our cross is not those minor _____ in our lives. It is not just the place of _____—it is a place of _____. When Jesus says we are to take up our cross, He is saying that we are to live as though we are _____.

“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)

Spiritually, the cross also represents the _____ that’s 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 being willing to go _____ Jesus—to _____ suffering, shame, ridicule, embarrassment, rejection, persecution, and even death.

It also means seeing _____ and _____ in our suffering.
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)

To follow Jesus sometimes requires:

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To be a disciple is to continually _____ Jesus. It is a _____ of life and a _____ of living. Following Jesus means getting to _____ Him in the kind of way that comes from spending time with Him. Following Jesus means being _____ to Him and His teachings.

“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 _____—a heart of love, _____, and mercy for all people—no matter who they are or what they’ve done.

It’s learning to _____ Jesus, to believe in Him, and to _____ His voice.

“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)

Following Jesus means that we’re willing to be _____—sometimes into places we don’t understand; places that are dark and scary; even painful and unpleasant—because we _____ and follow the Shepherd.

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



We have two choices—we can either seek to _____ our lives and live for _____, by spending all our time and energy trying to gain the whole world—only to _____ our soul.

Or we can seek to _____ our life, by _____ it—by living as disciples of Jesus.

We can either live or have the _____ of life—the choice is ours.

Before we make this choice, we need to ask ourselves if we’re willing to _____ the _____ and pay the _____.

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24-26)

Jesus is calling you to be His disciple.

What commitment are you willing to make?

How is the Principle of Discipleship working in your life?