

The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, November 17, 2021

“The Gospel of Marks ~ The Cost of Discipleship

Mark 8:34-38

Disciple = *mathetes* (GRK) / *discipulus* (LTN) =

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.

“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.

THE PRINCIPLE: 3 CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

#1. True discipleship involves \_\_\_\_\_.

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves...” (Mark 8:34)

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.

“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...” (Mark 8:34)

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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“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

Like sheep submitting to the voice of their shepherd, genuine followers of Jesus are characterized by loving \_\_\_\_\_ to Him and His word.

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

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 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.

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?**

## THE PARADOX

“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” (Mark 8:35)

Those unwilling to \_\_\_\_\_ their lives to Christ, choosing instead to cling to sin, selfish ambition, and acceptance by the world, will one day lose their souls to everlasting death., However, those willing to \_\_\_\_\_ everything for the sake of Christ, and commit to the three principles that we just looked at, will receive eternal life.

“I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)

“For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?” (Mark 8:36-37)

to obtain all of the riches, respect, and accolades this life could offer and yet die apart from Christ is to be eternally \_\_\_\_\_.

“Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” (Mark 8:38)

Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in this life will be rejected by Him at judgement. However, for those who believe and who seek to live lives of committed discipleship, the return of Christ is a blessed \_\_\_\_\_ and a comforting promise that they eagerly wait to see fulfilled.

**Are you prepared to lose your life for Christ—or are you grasping for the things of this world? What are you living for—the here and now or eternity?**



**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?**