

# A Closer Walk With God

## Are You A Disciple Of Jesus?

### Lesson #1

**TEXT: Matt. 28:18-20**

#### INTRODUCTION:

- A. GREAT COMMISSION, SHORTLY BEFORE ASCENSION.
- B. NOTICE THE MAIN THOUGHT OF JESUS' COMMAND.
  - 1. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."
  - 2. To "make disciples," therefore, is the GOAL of evangelism
- B. ARE YOU A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?
  - 1. More than likely you believe in Jesus...
  - 2. You might even be one to attend church services regularly.
  - 3. But is that what it means to be His disciple?

#### I. THE DEFINITION OF A DISCIPLE.

- A. THE WORD "DISCIPLE"..
  - 1. The word "disciple" literally means A LEARNER
  - 2. **Vine's**, "one who follows another's teaching." AN ADHERENT.
  - 3. Disciples were spoken of as IMITATORS of their teachers.
- B. THE GOAL IN BEING A DISCIPLE..
  - 1. Stated by Jesus himself: To be like the teacher ( **Luke 6:40** ).
  - 2. This coincides with God's goal in the redemption of mankind, that they be conformed to the image of His Son( **Rom. 8:29** )
- C. DO YOU HAVE STRONG DESIRE TO FOLLOW JESUS AND BECOME LIKE HIM?

#### II. THE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE.

- A. A DISCIPLE IS "ONE WHO ABIDES IN JESUS' WORDS"( **John 8:31** ).
  - 1. This would imply being a diligent student of the teachings of Christ
  - 2. It also requires one to be a "doer" of the Word( **Mat. 7:21-27; Jas. 1:21-25** ).
  - 3. In view of this, a true disciple would not fail to study the Bible diligently
- B. ALSO "ONE WHO LOVES THE BRETHREN"( **John 13:34-35** ).
  - 1. With a love patterned after the love of Jesus ("as I have loved you").
  - 2. With a love that is visible to the world ("by this all will know").
  - 3. Therefore, a true disciple would make every effort to know his brethren.
  - 4. A disciple wants to be like his teacher( **John 15:13; 1 John 3:16** ).
- C. A DISCIPLE IS "ONE WHO BEARS MUCH FRUIT"( **John 15:8** ).
  - 1. Notice the word "much" (also found in verse **5**)
    - a. Jesus is not talking about an occasional good deed
    - b. But a lifestyle which prompts people to glorify God!( **Matt. 5:16** ).
  - 2. Failure to bear fruit results in being severed from Christ( **John 15:1-2** ).
  - 3. How can one be a disciple if he or she is cut off from Christ?
- D. THE POINT: TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST MEANS MORE THAN JUST A CASUAL CHURCH MEMBER. IT REQUIRES COMMITMENT.

#### III. THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE.

- A. JESUS MUST COME FIRST( **Luke 14:26** ).
  - 1. Before anyone else, including members of our own family( **Matt. 10:34-37** ).
  - 2. Even before one's own self( **Luke 9:23-25** ).
- B. WE MUST BE WILLING TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST( **Luke 14:27** ).
  - 1. Following Christ often involves ridicule and persecution( **2 Tim 3:12** ).
  - 2. Even if we are blessed to escape such things, we must still be willing to expend time and effort in promoting the cause of Christ in positive ways
- C. SIMPLY, WE MUST FORSAKE ALL TO FOLLOW CHRIST( **Luke 14:33** ).
  - 1. In other words, Jesus must be KING and LORD of our lives.
  - 2. Nothing can take precedent over Him and His Will for us.
- D. IS THE **COST** WORTH IT?

#### IV. THE REWARDS OF BEING A DISCIPLE.

- A. THERE IS THE PROMISE OF "FUTURE BLESSINGS"
  - 1. Saved from God's wrath which is yet to come upon the world( **Rom. 5:9** )
  - 2. We look forward with anticipation to eternity with God( **Rev. 21:1-8** ).
- B. THERE ARE ALSO "PRESENT BLESSINGS"
  - 1. Jesus offers a PEACE the world cannot give( **John 14: 27** )

2. His words inspire JOY to lift our spirits out of any depression( **John 15: 11** ).
3. The ABIDING LOVE OF GOD( **John 15:9; 1 John 4:18** ).
4. Members of THE FAMILY OF GOD( **Mark 10: 28-30** ).

## **V. HOW DOES ONE BECOME A DISCIPLE?( **Matt 28:19-20** ).**

### **A. ACCORDING TO JESUS, IT INVOLVES BAPTISM.**

1. Why baptism
  - a. Remember the goal of discipleship: to be like Jesus
  - b. He was holy and sinless, yet we are to be like Him
  - c. Fortunately, baptism is described as an act of faith which puts us in contact with the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ so we can be forgiven –  
( **Acts 2: 38; 22: 16; Rom 6: 3-4** )
  - d. It is also the means by which one "puts on Christ"( **Gal. 3:27** ).
2. But what is baptism?
  - a. It is an act of submission, preceded by faith in Jesus and repentance of our sins  
( **Acts 2:36-38; 8:36-37** ).
  - b. A burial in water, and resurrection to new life( **Rom 6:3-4; Col. 2:12** )
    - 1) This precludes sprinkling or pouring as a mode of baptism
    - 2) A "burial", an immersion( meaning of the Greek "*baptidzo*" ).
  - c. An act of faith which results in a wonderful working of God in our lives!
    - 1) Sins are washed away( **Acts 22:16; Eph. 5:25-27** ).
    - 2) We are "regenerated" and "renewed" by the Spirit of God so we can now live for God!( **Titus 3:5-6** ).
    - 3) A "rebirth" involving both water and the Spirit( **John 3: 5** ).

### **B. BUT BAPTISM IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, TEACHING AND OBEDIENCE MUST FOLLOW( **Matt. 28:20** ).**

1. This brings us back to the very definition of discipleship.
2. For Jesus clearly states:
  - a. We are to be TAUGHT (that is, to be LEARNERS)
  - b. We are to OBSERVE (that is, to be ADHERENTS or DOERS)
3. In this way we embark on a life devoted to learning and doing all that Jesus has commanded us to do

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. ONLY THOSE SCRIPTURALLY BAPTIZED AND DEMONSTRATING THE MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP CAN TRULY BE CALLED DISCIPLES.
- B. ONLY THEY CAN REALISTICALLY LOOK FORWARD TO THE REWARDS OF DISCIPLESHIP AND TAKE CONSOLATION IN THE PROMISE OF JESUS  
( **Matt. 28:20** ).