

Discipleship in the Christian Life: Being and Making Selected Scriptures

1. **Discipleship is a Cherished Relationship** (John 6:66-69)

The universe which God created is massive and wonderful, and human beings seem relatively insignificant in comparison (cf. Ps. 8:3-4). As Christians, we know that we are uniquely blessed among all of God's creatures (Gen. 1:27), and we simultaneously confesses our own worthiness of God's judgment while believing in Christ and trusting that He has fully satisfied the justice of God on our account (Rom. 3:21-26; 6:23). Having this understanding, Christians treasure Jesus and the glorious gospel of salvation, and could not long endure the idea of abandoning Him (John 6:66-69; cf. Matt. 13:45-46).

Question: Is Jesus Christ and the Gospel Precious to Me?

2. **Discipleship is a Costly Endeavor** (Matt. 16:24-27)

Jesus teaches that no one should become a disciple without first understanding the cost of that discipleship (Lk. 9:62; 14:25ff; cf. Mk. 4:13-20). A disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who continually strives to love and serve Christ above all other people or things (Mt. 10:37-39). As disciples, we must be willing to leave everything to follow Christ (cf. Mk. 10:21-22, 28; Lk. 8:38). The life of discipleship may cost us everything that we have (cf. Acts 21:13), but that cost is one that we, as disciples, believe is worth paying (Mt. 16:24-27; Gal. 2:20; Phil 1:21).

Question: Am I Willing to Suffer Loss for the Sake of the Gospel?

3. **Discipleship is Commanded Activity** (Matt. 28:19-20)

Just before He ascended to heaven, Jesus commanded His disciples to continue making disciples (Matt 28:19-20). Making disciples will require the apostles to be bold in evangelism (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29), to embark on missionary journeys (Acts 13:2-5), and to be diligent in planting local churches (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). It will also require every believer to be faithful in participation in the corporate ministry of the local church (Acts 16:1-4; Rom. 15:25ff; 1Cor. 16:1) and in the training of disciples at home (cf. 1 Tim. 1:5). Individual involvement in making disciples has been a perpetual obligation for every individual believer of every generation (Deut. 6:7ff; Eph. 6:4).

Question: Am I Actively Participating in Making Disciples?