



IDENTITY

DISCIPLES

IDENTITY - DISCIPLES PART 2

In the first Disciple resource we looked at the disciple becoming like his Teacher and being fully trained. This means being fully equipped to live the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ. This is someone who is no longer a crowd follower, but someone who is wholeheartedly abandoned and devoted to Christ and the Father's Will.

Discipleship tested

Luke 14:25-35 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. "Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

How many of us are fully aware that this is the standard Jesus requires of His disciples? Maybe this is the reason why many of His disciples walked away from Him in John 6:66.

Anything less than this and you are not a disciple of Jesus, because Jesus sets the benchmark for being His disciple not us. If we are not disciples of Jesus, then what are we? I would say we are justified believers. People who have confessed with their mouths Jesus as Lord and believed in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead, and that's where it finishes.

We don't go beyond this point and we continue to be lords of our own lives, determining and dictating what our earthly lives will be like. We stay in the crowd because this is where we can hide and keep our distance from Him, while maintaining complete control of our lives, not allowing Him to get too close, but keeping an eye on the proceedings so as to make us feel we are part of things.

The measure or standard Jesus has set for His disciples is truly eternal and completely outside of our capacity and strength to achieve! Only His divine Grace can create and build this kind of disciple.

Have we recognised this yet?

Maybe this is why we have made Sunday services our number 1 priority, ahead of making disciples, because this is a standard we can control, achieve and measure ourselves by. We have all our KPI's lined up in a row and give ourselves a big pat on the back, assuring ourselves of how well we are doing.

The making of disciples for many has been minimised down to just empty words. We verbally acknowledge it but remove our hearts far from it. We love our crowd or public ministry, because it requires nothing of and from us. We get to GO ALONG with Jesus while never actually following Jesus and being presently present for what He is about, the Father's Will.



IDENTITY

DISCIPLES

The crowd are purely there for themselves.

We come, we sit, we watch and repeat the same thing, week after week, month after month, year after year, and we are content with this because this is all we know. We are the crowd and we scream “Entertain me!”

When Jesus discerns this crowd culture of heart and mind, He turns the heat up and makes us all very clear of what it is to be His disciples, not service attendees. There is a massive difference between the one who professes to be a disciple of Jesus and one who lives as a disciple of Jesus.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

Jesus makes disciples according to His standard of measure and in accordance to His image. Are you that disciple or are you still in the crowd going along with Jesus but not following Jesus? Just because you say you are a follower doesn't mean you are following Him.

QUESTIONS

1. What impacts you the most about this resource?
2. Why is calling yourself a disciple and actually being a disciple two very different things?
3. Why is Grace so vital in being able to be this kind of disciple?
4. What would the church be like if each disciple lived like this?
5. What impact would the church have on the world around them if the church were these kinds of disciples?
6. What's preventing both of these realities occurring and why?

ACTION POINT: What action point do we need to take away from tonight?