



IDENTITY

DISCIPLES

IDENTITY - DISCIPLES PART 3

For this next resource I want to follow on from last weeks which focused on the standard Jesus sets for being His disciple. Let's look at these key verses from Luke 14:26-27 and 33, as we can't just skip by these verses, ignoring them or wishing they weren't even there.

These verses are to arrest and apprehend us from possibly going the wrong way and align us back on to the narrow way.

Luke 14:26-27 "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."

Luke 14:33 So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

There are 3 very clear and precise stipulations for being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and all 3 address the core essential aspects of life itself. The 3 core aspects are.....

1. Who do you love?
2. Who are you living for?
3. What do you value?

Let's start with the first stipulation - "Who do you love?"

The word 'hate' is a very strong word here and it needs to be, because Jesus is fully aware of the depths of the entrapment and entrenchment that is entangled in being the god of your own life, being a lover of self, and because of this, having 'idols' in your life, which you hold a greater love for in your heart than Him.

2 Timothy 3:1-2 But realise this, that in the last day's difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self.

Idols in this context being your spouse, children, parents, brothers or sisters, literally any other human being, that has taken the rightful place in your heart, which is only His to take.

The word hate means to 'detest'. If we love ourselves and other people more than we love Him, we are to detest this state of being in us. We are to be repelled and detest this demonic posture of being, which looks to extract the life out of others to satisfy its own fleshly wants and needs, called LUST.

We must cry out to Him, asking Him to release us from this entrenchment of 'self', the spirit of pride. We must be found in a posture of spiritual repentance which leads to life if this is the case.

2 Corinthians 7:8-10 For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it—for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while—I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.



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Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance.

Q. What is it we can lose (loss), through not finding this posture of repentance through God's will, in the context of loving our own lives and another person more than Christ?

DISCUSS AS A GROUP!

The thing or things we can lose (loss), must be of extreme importance to God, for Him to use such a word as 'hate', 'to detest', in the context of loving self or others.

What have you heard being prophetically declared, heavenly utterances out of the mouths of those testifying of Him and His Will, in connection to this incredible loss, which we can suffer as His people?

DISCUSS AS A GROUP!

As we can see this is only the first stipulation but it is the highest in ranking in Him, because out of it flows the other two. Loving you and your own life is natural wisdom, demonic wisdom which James speaks of. God wants to crucify the hardened heart through His Son Jesus, the Power of God, so we can all be released from being a lover of self, and truly start loving Him through His grace, with all we are and enter into the fulfillment of the other two stipulations of becoming His disciple.

These are the words of Jesus Himself not man.

"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."

ACTION POINT:

1. What are you being made aware of by the Spirit through marinating in this resource?
2. What action point do we need to take away from tonight?