



IDENTITY

DISCIPLES

IDENTITY - DISCIPLES PART 6

For this resource we will look at the many disciples who withdrew and walked away from Him and walked with Him no more.

John 6:66 As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.

As a result of what?

As a result of Jesus testifying to who He was and His instructions to eat His flesh and drink His blood, many of His disciples said, "This is a difficult statement, who can listen to it?"

Jesus goes on to say that His words are spirit and life, and that it is the Spirit who gives life and the flesh profits you nothing.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

The first thing I want to address, is that Jesus is NOT talking with the Pharisees or the Sadducees, but His very own disciples. As we looked at ,in the first resource, the heart intention of every disciple is to be fully trained and become like their Master. With this being the context for being a disciple of Christ, why are many of His very own disciples withdrawing themselves and walking with Him no more?

It is because they were profoundly offended by what Jesus spoke. They were appalled by His words of Truth, which were words of the Spirit. Spiritual words which one requires the Spirit to hear and understand through the renewing of the mind. The Spirit had not yet been poured into the people, even though the Spirit was present, so although they were disciples who were justified by His blood, they were unable to hear, receive, accept and believe the Word of God through the mouthpiece who was the Word, hence they packed up their bags and walked with Him no more.

The Scriptures back this reality.

John 6:64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

What do you hear from this? Not everyone who says they are His disciples actually live as disciples. Not everyone who professes to be in love with Him and walk as He walked will actually finish the whole race. We have Judas as an example of this as one of the twelve. He was a disciple. He was hand selected by Jesus as a disciple and yet he betrayed Jesus at the end, and Jesus knew He would.

These words in verse 65 ***"And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father"***, should have us asking some questions around how we have come to Him. In other Scriptures we see Jesus saying no one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

This is to have us asking some serious questions about our own lives. Have we been led into a reality where we



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believe we are His disciples, but our lives say something else? Have we walked away from Him and are following Him no more, being completely unaware of this because we haven't been able to hear what He is saying to us either directly or through a sent disciple?

Why is it that the church of Ephesus were told they must repent after having left their first love, if everything was all ok in God's house?

I am not sure we really want to go anywhere near these types of Scriptures and questions, but we must if we truly want to be His disciple and run our race all the way to the end and run well.

Is it any wonder Jesus turned to His twelve and asked them all if they also wanted to go away?

John 6:67 So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to go away also, do you?"

Right here is where His disciples will face one of their many tests. The Scriptures say test yourself to see if you are in fact in the faith. Saying you are a disciple of Jesus and actually living as a disciple can be two entirely different things, and yet let's look at how Peter responds in verse 68-69.

Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

How Jesus responds to this is fascinating.

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?"

Peter uses the word "we". 'We' have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God, while Jesus responds with "one of you, My disciples is a devil."

Jesus knowingly picked a disciple who would betray Him unto His death - why?

Jesus knew many disciples would walk away from Him and follow Him no more when He spoke the Word of God - what is this telling you?

Jesus knew those who wouldn't believe - how?

Q. What does all this have to do with us?

DISCUSS THIS AS A GROUP.

From looking at all this I would say its fully possible to fall into one of these camps and not even realise it. We may not have betrayed Jesus like Judas but we can certainly deny Him, just like Peter did, who by the way said "We have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God."

I would say its fully possible to think and believe you are something which you are in fact not. I would say none of us must be casual or apathetic in becoming a disciple of Jesus and living as one, wholeheartedly abandoned to Him and His Will, all the way to the END.

Matthew 24:13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.



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Is it time to check our radar or our compass as to where we are truly at in our fellowship with Him. The evidence of being a disciple of Jesus is proven by the fruit in one's life. Do you have much fruit to go around?

John 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

QUESTIONS

1. What does enduring till the end mean?
2. What role does the Spirit play in becoming a disciple of Jesus?
3. Why is Jesus asking Peter if he wants to go away too?
4. Why is the bearing of much fruit the proof of being His disciple?

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