

Discipleship

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I. Introduction. (Luke 9)

- A. When society starts to fall apart, one wonders - whose side is God on?
- B. We ought not to be concerned what side God is on, but whether we are on God's side.
- C. God can work in difficult circumstances and do what He needs to do.
- D. The attitude of permissiveness is one of the chief problems.
- E. The Bible does not need to be reconstituted, man needs to be regenerated.
- F. The Bible is authoritative, sufficient and indispensable for ongoing ministry.

II. Jesus and the multitudes. (Luke 14:25)

- A. Great multitudes followed Jesus, but He limited them by stating the demands of discipleship.
- B. The reasons the requisites were so tough.
 - 1. Christ is a builder of the church and had to count the cost. (Matthew 16:18, Psalm 127:1)
 - 2. There are heavenly beings that are beholding the work of Christ. (Ephesians 3)
 - 3. Christ is the warrior king come to destroy the works of the Devil. (1 John 3:8)
 - 4. Christ came to build and to do battle, and He needs the kind of people He can count on to finish the task.
- C. The world is in turmoil because of the true warfare between the kingdom of light and darkness, and it will get worse.
 - 1. Jesus is the builder, and He is the warrior. (Nehemiah 4:18, Acts 14:21)
 - 2. Christ is at work today, and we can count on it.
 - 3. We are to have part in His work. We only have one thing to say: "Lord, what do you want me to do?"
 - 4. Since Christ is the warrior king, He must reckon the quality of his warriors.
 - 5. Jesus is concerned about the "deep down" things of a person.

III. Requirements of discipleship.

A. One ought to “hate” his family.

1. Hate means to prize less dearly by comparison.

a. We are to have a strong preference for Jesus over family.

b. Eli wrongly preferred his children over his son. (1 Samuel 2:29)

c. There can be an unhealthy relationship between parent and child.

2. It means being committed to Jesus over others - this cleanses one’s familial relationship.

B. One ought to put Jesus before self. Jesus should have no less than what a country asks from a soldier.

C. One must take up his cross.

1. This is our personal cross.

2. Almost everyone is carrying a secret cross.

3. The cross is bore for others.

4. Taking one’s cross is to follow Jesus when it is both popular and unpopular.

5. Jesus is not trying to make people poor, He is trying to make them spiritually rich.

6. You must have things - things must not have you. This is determinative for the “salty” disciple.

Application questions.

1. Why did Jesus seem to show little concern for the multitudes?

2. What is the ‘cost’ of discipleship? What would you find hardest to give up for the call of Christ?

3. What is holding you back from following Christ whole-heartedly? Take some time to rededicate yourself to following Christ. Share what this means to you to a friend.
