

The Cost of Discipleship

Clarity in communication can alleviate a lot of pain and embarrassment.

Luke 14:25-27 (NKJV)

²⁵ Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

How do Americans deal with inconvenience?

Most of us are looking for that which is comfortable and convenient.

Jesus is more interested in having committed followers than He is in drawing a crowd of fans.

I know family is foundational but following Christ must come first.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

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These words spoken by Jesus are difficult and demanding, abrupt and offensive and run counter to our Christian subculture.

First, what is a disciple?

A disciple is a learner or follower and was used to describe someone who was totally committed to a cause or a person.

It must also involve Attitudes, Beliefs, and Character...and all three of these are changed during the discipleship process.

Luke 6:40 (Student NIV) "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."

The term "disciples" occurs 267 times in the New Testament, while "Christian" is found just three times.

It's important to count the cost of becoming a Christian because it is making a decision to a lifetime of discipleship.

While family is foundational, following Christ must come first.

Genesis 29:30-31 (KJV)

... "And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb..."

Jesus often used figures of speech to make an unforgettable impact.

Matthew 5:30 (NIV)

"And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."

Notice that a follower is to hate "*even his own life.*"

We have lost the horror of the cross.

Discipleship according to our Savior must involve death to self – our independence, agenda and expectations.

Acts 20:24 (NIV) "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace."

Revelation 12:11 (NIV) says: "...They did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

Jesus hits at the very heart of human relationships to make sure that following Christ comes first.

It's easy to be a fan; it's much more difficult to be a follower.

"All relationships, no matter how intimate, must be secondary to our relationship with Christ."

Loving Jesus More

Matthew 10:34-39 (NIV) “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn ‘A man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Status

John 8:39 “Abraham is our father...”

Salvation

Romans 9:6 “For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.”

Security

Psalm 127:3-5 ³ Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. ⁴ Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

By the way, the best gift you can give to your family is to make your faith your number one priority!

Redefining the Family

Mark 3:31-34 ³¹ Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.” ³³ “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked. ³⁴ Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!”

Family as nothing

Family as everything

Over Indulgence

Over Protection

Luke 9:62 "No one who put his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

John 6:28-29 "Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'"

Luke 11:27-28 ²⁷ As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." ²⁸ He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

The family is foundational but following Christ must come first!