

## **SECTION III**

# **SIX MARKS OF A COMPLETE DISCIPLE**

**In this section you will learn what Jesus Himself calls, “My Disciples.” You are seeking to become a complete disciple of our Lord. Listen and learn what the Master says will qualify you to be His disciple.**

## **Discipleship - Session 13**

### **Begin the 6 Marks Of A True Disciple**

#### **Mark # 1 - CHOOSING WISELY**

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. Jesus demands serious choices in life.
2. Who or what is really number one in our life?
3. Biblical examples of choosing priority.
4. The wisdom of God in making choices.

Assignment:

1. Continue ALONE prayer log. (One day -- 1/2 hour.)
2. Communing Word log.
3. Pray 2 Peter 1:1-15 into your life.
4. Pray Mark # 1 into your life.
5. Also go over the material you learned this session. Look up all the scriptures. Put this lesson to practice in your daily life.

This entire manual is about becoming a true disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are six occasions in Jesus ministry that are recorded in the New Testament where Jesus Himself actually describes those whom He calls “My disciple(s)”. I call these the *Six Marks Of A True Disciple*. We will examine one mark for each of the next six sessions. We will take them in the order we find them in scripture.

## **Mark # 1 of a True Disciple - CHOOSING WISELY**

### **Luke 14:26**

Luke 14:26 *“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.”*  
(NKJV)

#### I. Priority In Choosing

The above verse is loudly proclaiming that if we are to be Jesus’ disciple, we must make serious choices in life. The Greek word for “hate” not only means exactly what you think of when you hear this word, but it is also a word that is used when a statement of preference is demanded. When you have to choose one thing over another, then the thing not chosen is seen as being detested. Example: If you had to choose between \$1,000 or \$5,000, which would you choose? \$5,000 of course. Then the \$1,000 in this case would be considered “hated” because it was not chosen.

Jesus is not saying Christians must “hate” their parents, spouse, and relatives. He is saying if we are going to call ourselves **His Disciple** then we must choose Him over them. In reality this is a simple statement of fact: If you are going to be His Disciple then you must choose Him. If you do not, then you will be your parents’ disciple, or your spouse’s disciple, or your relatives’ disciple, or someone else’s disciple but not His disciple.

What Jesus is demanding us to answer is the question, “Who or what really is Number One in your life?” And the answer must be: “Jesus”.

This is not something completely new in scripture. Consider the first of the Ten Commandments -- Exodus 20:3.

Note what Jesus says in the following scriptures:

- Mark 12:28-30 -- Jesus’ answer as to what is the Greatest Commandment.
- Matthew 12:46-50 - Talking of His family -- “Who is my mother and my brother?”
- Matthew 10:34-39 - come to set a man against his father (Note v.37 - Love - *phileo*.)
- These verses do not imply that we are not to care about our biological family. Jesus did. - John 19:26-27

Biblical examples of choosing priority.

- Abraham leaving Haran (his family) to follow God. - Genesis 12:1-4
- Abraham with his son Isaac. - Genesis 22:1-3, 9-12
- Call of Elisha - 1 Kings 19:19-21
- The call of the disciples - Matthew 4:21-22; Mark 10:28-30
- Paul chose Jesus above notoriety among the Jews (being known among the Rabbis) - Philippians 3:4-8; Acts 22:3

Remember our session on “Brotherly Kindness”? The text verse (Luke 14:26) is an expansion of this thought. Consider again these verses:

Acts 2:44-47

Acts 4:32-37

Our spiritual family is eternal. Our biological family may or may not be. We have heard such statements as, “Strong families make strong churches.” But the other way is the truth; “Strong churches make strong families.” Often strong families control the church.

There should be such a strong understanding of the church as a family that it is very difficult for us to miss our family meeting together! It should be hard for us to miss.

Question?: Do we love our people more than we love our possessions? Do you love me more than your TV or your stereo system? Do I love you more than I love my boat or my living room suite? The church in the book of Acts did. They understood the church as God’s Family.

If you understand this principle, you can no longer be stingy where your brothers and sisters in Christ are concerned!

Mark #1 declares we choose to put Jesus first. As we do this, we will also put first what He puts first. Obviously this means His church. There is much more as we will see as we grow in grace and in knowledge of Him.

## II. Wisdom In Choosing

Since we must make serious choices in life, then we need the wisdom of God in our lives; otherwise, we will regularly make the wrong choices in life. We must learn to see life from God’s perspective for He is the giver of wisdom. Let God teach us about His wisdom from the following scriptures:

James 1:5; 3:17

Psalms 111:10

Proverbs 1:1-7; 3:13-18

Romans 11:33

1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 2:6-8; 12:7-8

Ephesians 1:15-19; 3:8-12

Colossians 2:1-3

“But wisdom is justified by all her children.” (Luke 7:35). God’s wisdom is always shown to be right even though the world may mock it. Choices have to be made. Let us learn to make them God’s way because we are His disciples!

**SUMMATION STATEMENT: Life is made up of choices. We all are presently living in the results of our choices of the past. Our choices now will affect our future. How do we choose correctly? By always putting Christ first in our choices. We must learn to ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?” Otherwise we will make choices based on family desires, self desires, someone else’s desires, etc. Do we wish to be His Disciple? Then let us make wise choices. Ask God for His wisdom.**