

## **Discipleship - Session 14**

### **Continue the 6 Marks Of A True Disciple Mark # 2 of a true disciple. - DYING DAILY**

Things we will cover this lesson:

1. We must die to self in order to be Jesus' disciple.
2. Christians are in the process of being saved.
3. Understanding of the term "bondservant".
4. The progress of maturity of a believer.

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 Marks 1 & 2 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.

## Mark # 2 of a True Disciple - Dying Daily Luke 14:27

Luke 14:27 “*And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*” (NKJV)

Again this is a simple statement of fact: If you are going to be His disciple then you have to die to self on the cross. If you do not die to self, then you will be your own disciple not His.

Let the dynamic force of the following verses of scripture sink deeply into your heart as we hear what the Lord says. These are not easy sayings of Jesus. These are profound sayings that we must heed. Hear them closely!

Matthew 10:38 <sup>38</sup> “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is **not worthy of Me.** (NKJV)

Luke 9:23-25 <sup>23</sup> Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily,** and follow Me. <sup>24</sup> “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. <sup>25</sup> “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? (NKJV)

Next let us listen to the Apostle Paul’s teaching on the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18 <sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power of God.** (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power of God** and the **wisdom of God.** (NKJV)

If we want the “power of God” and the “wisdom of God” in our lives, then we must go the way of the cross in our own lives!

Note the expression “who are being saved” in 1 Corinthians. There are several Bible references which talk about Christians getting saved. This does not mean saved in the sense of receiving the gift of eternal life when a person believes in their heart and receives Jesus. That is salvation of the human spirit when the Bible talks about us being “born again”. When the Bible talks about Christians “being saved”, it means our soul being saved from all the wrong thinking patterns that was in us before we came to Christ.

Check closely the following scriptures for this thought: James 1:21; 1 John 1:7; Romans 5:10

Notice how Paul describes the “enemies of the cross” in Philippians 3.  
Philippians 3:18-20 <sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:* <sup>19</sup> whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame -- who set their mind on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> For our citizenship (Greek word means form of government) is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (NKJV)

The major disturbance with Paul’s description is that two of the four things he lists are regularly practiced by a large portion of the western Christian community: “whose god is their belly” and “who set their mind on earthly things.” The church must learn to die to self or the world is never going to see us as much different from

themselves. According to verse 20, “our citizenship” or our form of self-government is in heaven! Let us learn to let heaven control us, not our selfish desires. This is why the cross is so important to the believer. Listen to Paul again in Galatians 6.

Galatians 6:14 <sup>14</sup>But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (NKJV)

Next I want us to consider the New Testament word “bondservant” and see how it applies to this lesson.

Philippians 2:5-8 <sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. (NKJV)

The Greek word for bondservant (KJV - servant) is *doulos*. *Doulos* is the strongest term in the New Testament of the servile relationship. A bondservant was like an empty glass. He was nothing except one through whom his master lived. **He was empty of self and full of his Lord.** That is why you find some servants in the scripture that have great authority and power. The reason they had such great power and authority was because their master gave it in them.

This attitude and life style cannot be lived out in the life of the believer apart from the cross. There is just no way that our human nature wants to get that empty.

The early followers of Christ considered themselves as bondservants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Read scripture and you will find that Paul began some of his letters with, “Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ,…” It is like saying, “Paul, an empty vessel, but then God called me to be an apostle.”

On the next page you will find a drawing I call **The Progress of Maturity**.

The cross in the circle is the focal point of this drawing. If this is not done, the maturity level of the believer is thwarted.

Short explanation of the drawing:

- The diagonal line represents the Christian race of life.
- The hole in the line at the bottom left represents man being lost in sin and unable to finish his God ordained destiny.
- The big, heavy cross represents the work of the cross - Jesus dying for us.
- The bottom part of the drawing represents man lost in his sin.
- Numbers 1 - 5 on the right represent five levels of Christian growth from immaturity to maturity.
- Level 1 is **Carnal/Babes in Christ**. Read the scriptures.
- Level 2 is the **Bondservant** level. Read the scriptures and see the note about *doulos* above.
- Level 3 is the **Friend of God** level. Read the scriptures.
- Level 4 is what I call **Appointed Sons**. Read the scriptures. Note these special points.

The Greek word for “appointed” in Galatians 4:2 has the same root word as the Greek word for “adoption” in Ephesians 1:5. In Biblical days the word for adoption was also used to define the point in time at which the father declared his son could manage the father’s business. We see this happening in the life of Jesus at His baptism.

Matthew 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup>When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup>And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (NKJV)

Now He had authority and power to do the Father’s work. Peter comments on this. 2 Peter 1:17 <sup>17</sup>For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (NKJV)

Note also in Galatians 4:2 - “guardians and stewards” (tutors and governors in the KJV). For us our “instructors of life” are the circumstances of life.

Romans 8:28 <sup>28</sup>And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. (NKJV)

- Level 5 is what I call **The Understanding of the Son**. God’s great desire for us is to understand the Father the way the Son understood the Father.
- The arrows pointing up are levels of maturing toward knowing God. We begin even while lost to be interested in the acts of God. These remain important to us the rest of our lives. The solid part of the line is the level where this maturity begins to take deep root in us and become very important to us.

**SUMMATION STATEMENT: Life is a journey, a journey with a destiny. To fulfill our destiny we must follow Christ. Only by dying to self can we follow Christ. Otherwise we will follow ourselves (or someone else) throughout our life and miss what God intended. God has a good plan for you. Do not mess it up with self.**

## THE PROGRESS OF MATURITY

**The Understanding of the Son:**

John 10:30; 17:21

**Appointed Sons:**

Romans 8:29

Galatians 4:1-2

Ephesians 1:5

Galatians 4:6-7

**Friend of God:**

Exodus 33:11

James 2:23

John 15:14-15

**Bondservant:**

Luke 14:27, 33

Deuteronomy 15:12-17

**Carnal/Babes**

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

**Lost:**

1 Corinthians 2:14

**MATURE**

**5**

**4**

**3**

**2**

**1**

**IMMATURE**

