

For the **SAKE**
of the **CALL**



— A Biblical Study of DISCIPLESHIP —

DISCIPLE

One who has been transformed and is being transformed by Jesus, an intentional learner that obeys Jesus and teaches others to do the same.

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Accepting the Gospel call to help people trust, follow and obey Jesus.

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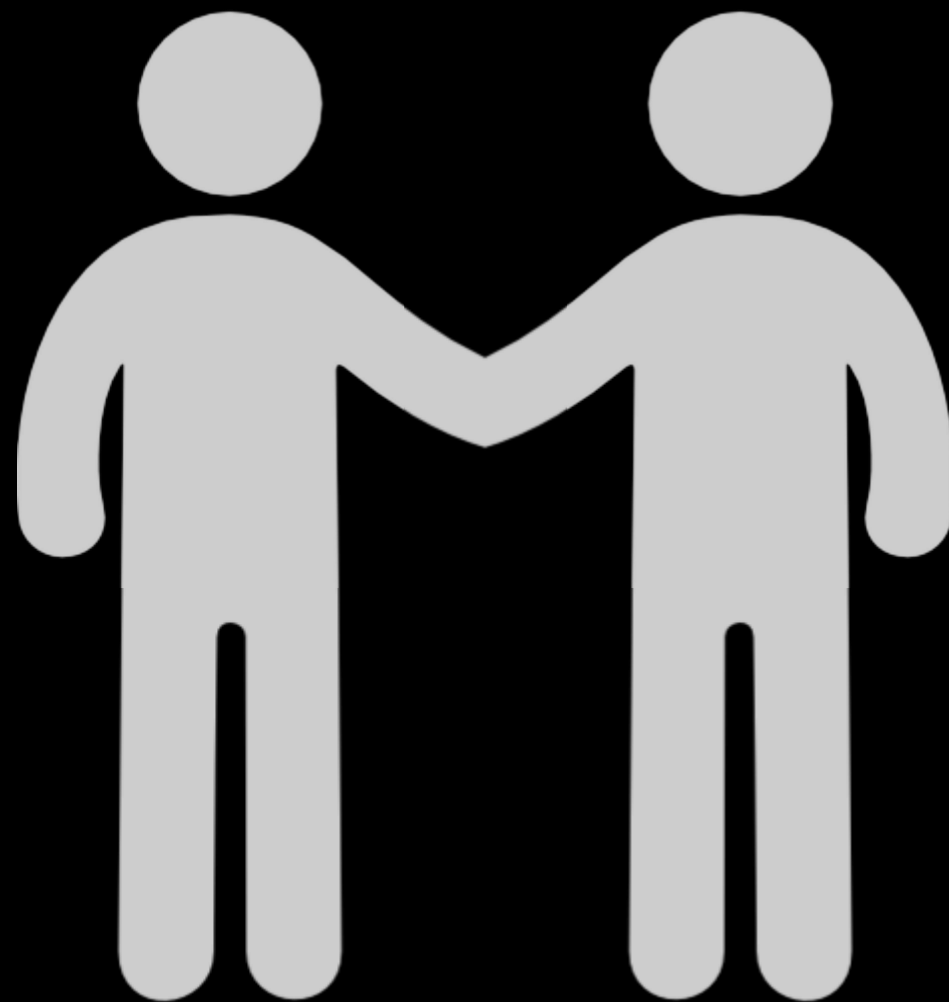
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H O R I Z O N T A L

Intro:

Three times Jesus uses the phrase “cannot be my disciple”

- 1) v.26 – regarding our relationships
- 2) v.27 – regarding self denial (taking up our cross)
- 3) V.33 – regarding our resources

Salvation is free – but to follow Jesus will cost us everything!

Jesus wants us to “count the cost” v.28

Uses two examples to illustrate this point:

1. One building a tower
2. A king going to war

1. One building a tower:

- He is addressing the issue of taking in to account what is required to build a tower
- The willingness to expend those resources

Are we aware of what it cost to follow Christ and are we willing to do it?

2. King going to war:

- He is addressing the issue of action
- Not if he should go to war, but rather what to do concerning this other king

Jesus wants us to count the cost:

- Understand what the cost will be (tower)
- Understand that cost requires action (king)

Focus Point: *A disciple of Jesus will submit every relationship to the authority of Jesus.*

Look at four things:

- 1. The Meaning of “Hate”**
- 2. The Cost of Internal Relationships**
- 3. The Cost of External Relationships**
- 4. The Warning**

1. The Meaning of "Hate"

Two possible meanings:

-We are to literally hate our family

-Can't mean this because of other Scripture

-5th Commandment

-We are to love each other

-We are to love our enemies

1. The Meaning of "Hate"

Two possible meanings:

- Used as hyperbole

- Jewish idiom of comparison between two things

- Love two things, but the love for one is so much greater, by comparison looks like hate

More than just a comparison – our love for Christ will at times cause division in our relationships, even in our families

Luke 12:51,53 *“⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”*

Jewish culture had a very high view of family

Rabbi Yochai *“The most difficult of all the commandments is to honor your father and mother. There is no limit to the honor that is due them and often obedience to this command is taxing. The child must never shame his parents, never bring them any pain or heartache; never display anger toward them. The Lord intended that the family would picture His relationship with us. Just as He created both man and woman in His image, so children are to regard their parents as divinely ordained and truly significant.”*

This is played out in Luke 9:57-62

One wants to bury his father

- His father had died and needed buried

- His father was aging and he is requesting to stay with him until he dies

Another wants to say goodbye to his family before he follows Christ

Both were cultural norms of the day

Jesus responded to the first “let the spiritually dead bury the dead”. Let those not following him take care of temporal matters.

To the second He said those who look back are not fit for the kingdom of God.

Anyone who does not “hate” his family, cannot be my disciple.

2. The Cost of Internal Relationships

There will be times when our family will attempt to come between us and Christ.

-Anytime we are asked to violate God's word by our family, we must "hate" that and love Christ by refusing.

Other times, we are asked to do or not do something that isn't sinful, but is contrary to God's call on our life.

-A parent's wish for their child goes against God's plan for them.

-Our culture's pressure to put the needs of our children above the call of God on our lives and theirs.

3. The Cost of External Relationships

Some relationships will need to be abandoned and others will need to be pursued.

-Those we need to abandoned:

-Any romantic relationship with an unbeliever

2 Cor. 6:14 *“Do not be unequally yoked”*

1 Cor. 7:39 *“Only in the Lord”*

-Friendship with an unbeliever that is influencing us towards sin.

1 Cor. 15:33 *“Bad company ruins good morals.”*

Are you actively pointing your unbelieving friend towards Christ or are they actively pointing you towards sin?

-Those we need to pursue:

-Believers and unbelievers

-Believers

Rom. 12:16 *“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.”*

No room for relational bigotry.

-Unbelievers:

Luke 5:27-32 “After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, ‘Follow me.’²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’³¹ And Jesus answered them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”

- The “others” are identified as “sinners”
- Jesus was willing to be seen with “seedy people” in “seedy circumstance”
- Jesus not only preached the Gospel, but befriended them as well
- Does call for wisdom – Jesus did not, we cannot participate in sinful behavior with the ungodly in an attempt to “befriend them”

4. The Warning

This is a continuation of thought regarding discipleship. More of an admonition than a warning.

Luke 14:34-35 "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Matt. 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."

Salt in Jesus' day was not refined; contained other minerals besides sodium chloride

The "salt" could be lost in two ways:

1. Bumps in the road knocked the salt off
2. Water seeped in and would dilute the salt until it was gone

It became useless

We can't allow the bumps or bruises of relationships erode our "saltiness" of following Christ

We can't allow the moisture of our culture to seep in and dilute the Gospel, slowly washing away our resolve to be "salty"

Questions:

1. What does it look like for you to practically “hate your family” in the context of Christ’s command?
2. Are there any areas in your internal relationships that you now see as having a higher priority in your life than the priority of being Jesus’ disciple? What are they?
3. What are the dangers of not using wisdom in your friendships with unbelievers?
4. How can we practically pursue relationships with other believers that we typically don’t have because of our differences?
5. How can we practically pursue relationships with unbelievers with the goal of pointing them to Christ through discipleship?