

“Discipleship”

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Week 1

Chapter 1: “Marks of Discipleship”

Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. -- Matthew 7:21

- **Disciple:** a student who follows the teachings of their master and spreads those same teachings. It’s a way of life that involves the total commitment of oneself to Jesus. (page 7)

Ways One Attempts to Substitute Discipleship

- **Pietism:** an enjoyable feeling of love for God that discludes cross-bearing and the keeping of Christ’s commandments. (page 10)
 - Our Lord gave us a rule by which we can test our love for Him: **21** Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” -- John 14:21 (page 11)
 - The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-30)
- **Literalism:** can always be identified by those who focus on living by the strict adherence to God’s commands, all while ignoring the spirit of those commands. It fails to understand the inward meaning of Christ’s words, but finds peace in external compliance. Many Pharisees were confronted by Jesus regarding this. (page 11)
 - Example: If Christ commands baptism, it finds fulfillment in the water act of baptism, but the radical meaning of the act in Romans 6 is completely overlooked. (page 11)
 - Example: Pharisee and Tax Collector at the Temple praying (Luke 18:9-14)
 - Literalism attempts to build a holy temple upon the sandy foundation of the religious self. (page 11)
- **Zealous Religious Activity:** Christ becoming a project to be promoted or a cause to be served rather than a Lord to be obeyed. Busy beaver mentality. The what and how of Christian service can only originate with the sovereign will of God, but those who ignore this fact think up their own schemes. (page 11)
 - Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

Marks of Discipleship

- **Deep Reverence for Divine Things**
 - A sense of the sacred must be present. Millions go through life unaffected by the presence of God in His world. (page 14)

- How and when do we speak of God to one another?
 - Who is God? How and why have so many gotten bored by Him?
- **A Great Moral Sensitivity**
 - Most are apathetic--insensitive to matters of the heart and conscience. God makes us acutely sensitive to evil. Inward repulsion toward the swine pen that rouses the prodigal and starts him back home is a gift of God to His chosen. (page 14)
 - How do we recognize wrong from right?
 - Why does God want us recognizing what's right? As previously mentioned, knowing what's right can be dangerous.
- **Mighty Moral Discontent**
 - Sin has its pleasures (Hebrew 11:25) and the vast majority of human beings have a whale of a time living. The conscience is a bit of a pest but most persons manage to strike a truce with it quite early in life and are not troubled much by it thereafter. (page 15)
 - Sin can bring a lot of pleasure and sometimes unwanted consequences.
 - Discipleship is about mind and heart transformation.
 - It takes a work of God in a person to sour one on the world and turn them against oneself. (page 15)
- **Consuming Spiritual Hunger**
 - Anyone who lives close to the hearts of men knows that there is little spiritual hunger among them. Where a hungry heart is found we may be sure that God was there first. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." (John 15:16) (page 15)
 - Taste & See that the Lord is good
 - Pray scripture
 - Feasting on the Word
 - Fasting

Transforming Questions

1. Christ calls His disciples to follow with total commitment. In what ways do you substitute discipleship? Does anything stand in your way of being a disciple?
2. According to John 14:21, if we love Jesus, what will we do? How does doing this show our love?
3. When was the last time you remember taking time to sit at the feet of Jesus? Why is this time needed and so important?
4. What are some ways you plan to begin altering your life this week in regards to discipleship?