

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Discipleship

"The cost of discipleship is high. But the cost of non-discipleship is even higher." – David Platt

"Our Lord's conception of discipleship is not that we work for God, but that God works through us."
– Oswald Chambers

"Childlike surrender and trust, I believe, is the defining spirit of authentic discipleship." – Brennan Manning

"Discipleship is the art and science of helping people find, follow and fully become like Jesus. Discipleship happens as God's people show love, share truth and live life with one another, making new disciples along the way." – Brandon Cox

"The cost of non-discipleship is the irrelevance of the church." – Ray Altman

It is striking how many good folks don't really understand what a disciple of Jesus truly is. The Master Himself said, "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). Earlier Jesus said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master" (Matt. 10:24).

A disciple is literally a learner or a pupil. It is used in the sense that we learn and follow the Master. But Jesus adds the thought that in the process, we must deny ourselves. Quite often we are driven by our own desires. But to truly follow Jesus, His will must be put before our own.

Did not Jesus express His desire to follow His Father? "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done" (Luke 22:42; cf. Matt. 26:42).

True discipleship is the willingness to follow Jesus no matter where it may take us. No, it is not comfortable suffering for His name, but it is expected. ("Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12).) It is said of the apostles, "So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" (Acts 5:41).

Many today will invoke the name of Jesus as long as it doesn't take them out of their comfort zone. Jesus is their friend as long as things are going their way. But if things get rough, they will abandon Him. ("From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more" (John 6:66).)

Do you have what it takes to follow Jesus no matter what may come? A true disciple will follow Him even until their dying breath. "...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).