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Decisions that Encourage Discipleship

Choosing to intentionally grow into Christlikeness.

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” Hosea 4:6*

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**Unit 101 Choosing to leave the place where Jesus finds me.**

*(Luke 9:23a) “if anyone will come after me…”*

**Unit 102 Choosing to Serve Jesus where He Leads me.**

*(Luke 9:23b) “…let him deny himself…”*

**Unit 103 Choosing to Learn from Jesus as He guides me.**

*(Luke 9:23c) “…take up his cross daily…”*

**103.1 “The Heart of Cross-bearing”**

[**Matthew 20:25-28**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?book_id=47&chapter=20&verse=25&end_verse=27&version=49&context=context)“*But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

\*\*Becoming a servant

\*\*Becoming a slave

\*\*Giving your life as a ransom

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“Jesus is calling all of us to follow Him and to live like He lived. Jesus is the all-time Greatest Servant that ever lived. Over and over our Lord taught His Disciples that in His Kingdom the way to true greatness, ultimate fulfillment and maximum joy was to ‘descend into greatness’ all the way down to the exalted role of a Servant. That is exactly what Jesus did and before we can become Disciple Makers, we will need to cultivate the heart of a Servant as our Lord demonstrated." Craig Rench

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**Matthew 10:37-39** *“The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.**And the one who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. The one who has found his life will lose it, and the one who has lost his life on My account will find it.****”***

\*\*Loving this life more than…

\*\*Taking the cross to follow…

\*\*Losing life and finding it…

**Luke 14:33** *“So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.”*

**I Corinthians 1:14**  *“For the word of the****cross****is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

1. **Jesus: the Servant/the Slave/the Ransom**

**Philippians 2:3-8** *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men.  Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

1. **Disciple: the Servant/ the Slave/ the Ransoming One**

**Colossians 3:22-24** *“Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”*

**Ephesians 6:7-8** *“With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.”*

1. **Bondservants: The Servants/ the Slaves/ the Ransoming Ones**

**II Timothy 2:24-26** *“The Lord's bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.”*

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**“The concept of a Love-Slave** comes to us from the Old Testament. **Exodus 21:5-6** and **Deuteronomy 15:16-17** tell us about an ancient custom. When a Hebrew slave had served his time (no more than 6 years – for God mandated that on the 7th year they were to be freed) and was about to be set free, if the slave had been treated so well by his or her master that he or she had grown to love their master… they could do something very special and unusual. They could **bond themselves** together to their master **for life** by declaring that they wanted to be their master’s **Love-Slave forever**. To signify this, there would be a public ceremony when the Love-Slave would have their ear pierced with an awl and they would voluntarily declare their life-long commitment to be the Love-Slave of their master for the rest of their days.” Craig Rench

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**Romans 8:18-21** *“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”*