

If You Want to Follow Jesus – part 3

Luke 9:23—Discipleship will not just cost you something; discipleship will cost you your life.

--We've spent a couple of weeks looking at what a disciple is spend a couple looking at what a disciple does.

--Today we will see that a disciple learns, loves and lives the Word of God.

The American Bible Society's annual State of the Bible report of the trends in 2019 "A mere 9% of Americans read the Bible in 2019" the lowest percentage they had recorded in decades.

1. Jesus calls His disciples the opposite way.

Discipleship is not anything other than what Jesus says: it is denying yourself and dying to whatever you or anyone else would do with your life.

--Real Discipleship will be recognized by several attributes: **Jn. 8:31-36**

1. Disciples Abide in the Word – Another Big "if": "If you abide in My Word"

--Abide – "to dwell, to remain, to live" – In other words, you're not a guest, this is your home

--You live in a home, right? You wake up there and return there every night; you spend your weekends there; your favorite and precious things are there—this how the word of God should be to us.

--**Jn. 14:23; I Thess. 2:13; Jn. 15:7**

--You're not a visitor, you're not a guest, this is your home.

If you want to be a disciple, you have move into the Word.

--Every disciple should have as their goal to be an expert in the Word of God.

--How well do you know your house? Can you walk through it in the dark? If I asked you where you kept the Easter decorations or your toothpicks, you could tell me because you abide there.

2. Disciples know the truth – it's a natural outcome of abiding Jesus' Word.

--It's interesting that Jesus lived in a time of great spiritual compromise, great political upheaval, days of self-love and everyone pushing a selfish agenda. Many times, these different interests tried to corner Him, and whether it was the Pharisees or the Sadducees or the Romans or Devil himself; Jesus' response was from the Bible—One of His favorite phrases was "**IT is written**".

"The Bible is a great source to cut through the fog of lies and deception and turmoil of our day"
False! *The Bible is the only source.*

--The Bible is the only source of truth and whatever else is true will either quote from it or agree with it.

John 17:17 --

--Jesus doesn't call it a source of truth but the source: "You will know the truth"

--"Well, I really need to be informed in my world and in news and media and what's going on."

Did you ever see Jesus doing that? Did you ever find Him instructing His disciples to look into the latest happenings and be informed about the changes on the political horizon.

Notice carefully: "If you abide...then you will know the truth" not, "If you are a Christian you will know the truth."

--Sheep are dumb; knowing Jesus as Savior doesn't make you anything other than a saved, dumb sheep.

--Sheep get smart when they abide in the Shepherd's Word (they aren't actually smart in themselves they are just listening to and obeying the Shepherd) "How do you know what's right? I don't, I just do what the Shepherd says."

--I don't know what's right, I just know that the Shepherd is right!

--"You will know the truth" – Ultimately the truth isn't just some principles of philosophies or platform, the truth is a Person.

--Jn. 14:6 – We get so caught up in knowing and accumulating knowledge about all sorts of things, but the real truth is a Person.

--Quite literally, your relationship with Him will steer you into the right paths, right thinking and right acting.

--The Truth Himself will be your truth.

--Again, discipleship is more than being saved; it's following the Shepherd.

3. Disciples walk in Freedom – No one else does – There are plenty of believers living in bondage on some level or another because they do not abide in Jesus' Word.

--If you abide (the big if), then you will know (but not until then), and you will be free; but not until the prior conditions are met.

--You're a Christian but you don't abide in the Word daily, consistently—It's not your home but just a place you visit—Here's what I know about you—You're in bondage to something, or many things.

--There is bondage that we know and are praying over and then there is the kind of bondage that you do not see and have no real feel for--that's the worst kind.

In bondage in the way you think,

in bondage in what you do or don't do,

in bondage in your directions in live,

in bondage in what you believe—

--On some level to some extent you are in bondage because you are not meeting the criterion to be set free.

--One of the best ways that we show we are in bondage is to think that there is some other way out of it aside from what Jesus clearly lays out.

--Can we agree that you're in bondage in your thinking and believing when you effectively say that Jesus isn't correct in evaluation of your life?

--A similar bondage that we see in those questioning Jesus: V. 34 couldn't come up with a better example of bondage – they'd been slaves in Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and spiritually they were some of the biggest sinners the world has ever known.

2. We need to take action.

--Develop a plan to soak in the Scriptures – One year bible, chronological Bible, different version every year.

--You have to proactive to be correctly reactive. taking it in proactively so that when something comes up or something happens, I can react with Scripture.

--Jesus reacted with Scripture – a great study would be studying how Jesus viewed Scripture—Mt. 5:18.

--Be involved in Bible study—Here and in small groups – small groups give you accountability and will push you to do more than you would by yourself.