What Do I Need

To Be A Disciple?

(Selected Scriptures)

10/24/2012

Introduction: (There were more than merely 12 Disciples. - Acts 1:15; Acts 6:1) God wants you to be one.

***What does it take to really be a Disciple of Jesus Christ?**

To be a Real Disciple you need…

I. A willingness to Resemble the Transferable Attributes of Jesus Christ
(Matthew 10:25a; Luke 6:40)
(Are you willing to be Christ-like?)

Sharing His Love (John 13:35) and Bearing His Fruit (John 15:8) are 2 clear evidences of Christ-likeness

II. A willingness to Endure Hardship because of your Identification with Christ
(Matthew 10:24-25)
(Would You Suffer Affliction for Him?)

III. A willingness to Deny your Selfish Ambition in order to Follow Christ
(Matthew 16:24 & Mark 8:34)
(Will you Say No to Yourself for His sake?)

IV. A willingness to Continually Trust & Obey Christ's Word
(John 8:31)
(Will Christ's Words stay firmly imbedded in your Heart & Life till the end?)

V. A willingness to Yoke Up Daily with The Master Having a Teachable Spirit in the School of Christ (Matthew 11:28-30)
(Will you Let the Lord Teach you about Himself everyday?)

VI. A willingness to put Christ Above Every Human Relationship
(Luke 14:26)
(Does anyone come before the Lord in your Life?)

VII. A willingness to Pay Any Price to Follow Christ to the End
(Luke 14:27-32)
(Would you Die for the sake of The Lord Jesus Christ?)

VIII. A willingness to Abandon any & every Earthly Thing that Robs Your "Salt"
(Luke 14:33-35)
(Is there anything you would not give up for Him?)



What Do I Need

To Be A Disciple?

(Selected Scriptures)

10/24/2012

Introduction: (There were more than merely 12 Disciples. - Acts 1:15; Acts 6:1) God wants you to be one.

***What does it take to really be a Disciple of Jesus Christ?**

To be a Real Disciple you need…

I. A willingness to _____ the Transferable _____ _____

(Matthew 10:25a; Luke 6:40)

(Are you willing to be Christ-like?)

Sharing His Love (John 13:35) and Bearing His Fruit (John 15:8) are 2 clear evidences of Christ-likeness

II. A willingness to _____ because of your _____ _____ with Christ (Matthew 10:24-25)

(Would You Suffer Affliction for Him?)

III. A willingness to _____ your _____ in order to _____ _____ (Matthew 16:24 & Mark 8:34)

(Will you Say No to Yourself for His sake?)

IV. A willingness to Continually _____ _____

(John 8:31)

(Will Christ's Words stay firmly imbedded in your Heart & Life till the end?)

V. A willingness to _____ with The Master Having a Teachable Spirit in the _____ (Matthew 11:28-30)

(Will you Let the Lord Teach you about Himself everyday?)

VI. A willingness to put _____ _____

(Luke 14:26)

(Does anyone come before the Lord in your Life?)

VII. A willingness to _____ to the End

(Luke 14:27-32)

(Would you Die for the sake of The Lord Jesus Christ?)

VIII. A willingness to _____ that Robs Your " _____"
(Luke 14:33-35)
(Is there anything you would not give up for Him?)

What Do I Need

To Be A Disciple?

(Selected Scriptures)
10/24/2012

Introduction: Who were the Disciples? (You might name: Matthew, Peter, James, John etc.)

Actually, There were more than merely 12 Disciples. - Acts 1:15; Acts 6:1

God wants you to be one.

You can't make a Disciple unless you are a Disciple.

But are you a Disciple. If so what kind are we?

A Disciple is one who is so trained in the disciplines in of Master that He looks like, thinks like, and acts like His Master.

***What does it take to really be a Disciple of Jesus Christ?**

To be a Real Disciple you need…

I. A willingness to Resemble the Transferable Attributes of Jesus Christ

(Matthew 10:25a; Luke 6:40)
(Are you willing to be Christ-like?)

Matthew 10:25
It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord.

Luke 6:40
The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

We are encouraged to model (copy) the transferable attitudes and actions of Jesus Christ:
Joh 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.
1Co 11:1 ¶ Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.
Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
1Jo 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.
1Jo 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

We are encouraged to Follow Jesus:
Mt 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
Mt 16:24 ¶ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
Joh 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Paul's <u>purpose</u> (his <u>motive</u>, his <u>goal</u>) = "That we might present (as an offering to God) every man perfect (complete; <u>mature</u>) in Christ"
Paul's whole life and ministry was wrapped up in this goal: <u>mature</u> believers.

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

God's goal is that we would be "a perfect man" = a complete, mature man (in contrast to the reference to "children" - v. 14)

God's goal is that we would receive all that Christ has to offer us - for life and godliness.

God wants us to have the whole measurer of Christ's fullness. His will is that we come to a full maturity. This fullness does not come from us, but from Christ.

If we only grow half way, we have not fulfilled God's will for our lives. His will is total maturity.

No parent would be pleased if their children only grew up to the second grade education or up to 10 years emotionally, or up to 12 years physically.

ILLUS: the sadness of mental and physical retardation is not as sad as spiritual retardation - when we fail to grow up (Heb. 5:11-14).

Ro 8:29 - For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

"Predestined" = to determine in advance. To mark out with a boundary beforehand.

Predestination in this verse refers not to salvation but sanctification.

Our being "conformed to the image of His Son" has ultimate reference to our future bodily resurrection.

I Cor. 15:49 - "And as we have borne the image of the earth, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."

"We know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope (Rom. 8:24) in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." (I Jn. 3:2, 3).

Our lives are to be formed into Christ-likeness.
This is God's plan for our lives here and now, not merely in the future.

When we were saved, we became God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

Being a "Christian" means a "Christ-like-one" or a "follower of Christ" (Acts 11:26, 26:28; I Pet. 4:16).

**You will be like whom you follow.

God does not want His children to be conformed (put into the mold of) to this world (Rom. 12:1, 2), but to His Son.

You were not saved to be conformed to the image of some movie star, rock musician, sports figure, millionaire, or other celebrity!

"First born" - a title of honor, authority, and pre-eminence, not a reference to origin (Col. 1:15; cp. Ps. 89:27).

Jesus is called the "first born of the dead; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence." (Col. 1:18).

Ultimate perfection is found in Jesus Christ! (Hutz, BJU - Romans, p. 52).

To stoop to conform your life to anyone else is to choose far less than the best!

The goal of discipleship is Christ-likeness.

Sharing His Love (John 13:35) and Bearing His Fruit (John 15:8) are 2 clear evidences of Christ-likeness

John 13:35
By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 15:8
Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

II. A willingness to Endure Hardship because of your Identification with Christ

(Matthew 10:24-25)

(Would You Suffer Affliction for Him?)

None of us is above Jesus our Master and Lord. If Ye was persecuted and unjustly treated, why do we think we will escape it?

We may be *"as our Master"* in the sense that we too will be unjustly ridiculed, condemned, and beaten.

If Jesus (the good Master of the house) was misunderstood and identified as Beelzebub (Satan), it should come as no surprise that we (sinners saved by grace and members of His family [*"household"])* are called names and wrongly abused - 23:27-31.

John 15:20 - *"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."*

When Jesus was being led away to be crucified, He compared what they did to Him with what they would do in the future Tribulation (SEE Luke 23:27-31)

The purpose of this message is not to give anyone a "martyr's complex." But to help you the next time you are opposed for Christ. Those living in the future Tribulation will need to be armed with such assurances.

How do I handle persecution for Christ?

1. Utilize it for a testimony for Christ (v. 18)

2. Don't sweat it, rely upon divine unction in emergency situations (v. 19-20)

3. Expect it even from family members (v. 21-22a)

4. Endure it and be delivered (v. 22b)

5. Rebound off it, and be used in another location (v. 23)

6. Accept it - if they persecuted Jesus, they will persecute you! (v. 24-26)

III. A willingness to Deny your Selfish Ambition in order to Follow Christ

(Matthew 16:24 & Mark 8:34)

(Will you Say No to Yourself for His sake?)

Mark 8:34

> *And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

Matthew 16:24

> ***Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.***

"If any man will come after Me" - "If any one desires (wishes) to follow me" - This does not refer to the means to salvation, but to sanctification; not relationship with Christ, but fellowship with Christ.

"Deny himself" - (*aparneomai* - a strengthened form of *arneomai*) - meaning to utterly say "no" to oneself; to turn away from your own self-centered ways; to totally disregard one's own selfish ways.

When a conflict of wills occurs (God's will vs. our old nature's) and we by the power of God's Spirit under the direction of God's Word choose to say "No" to selfish impulses, we have denied self.

When our flesh screams out for gratification (outside of God's ordained boundaries) and we don't give in but rather disregard temptation's cry, we have denied self.

True Christian maturity is not when we do right because we feel like it, but when we do right when we don't feel like it.

"Take up - the imperative anticipates willingness to do so. You must decide or choose to take it up.

The "cross" to which Jesus refers is not a physical handicap nor a "nagging wife" nor a "domineering mother-in-law" (MacArthur, p. 48).

"His cross" - Each one of us must take our own cross, our own instrument of death.

Each must die to self for oneself!

Such cross bearing is to be *"daily"* according to Luke 9:23.

In response to Peter's repulsive remark against suffering and dying (v. 22), Jesus tells him that unless He is willing to suffer, he cannot be a true disciple of Christ.

The "cross" was a common symbol of death. Many were hung on them, but none of their own volition. The purpose of the cross was not to bear it, but to die on it.

Jesus calls upon us to radically abandon our life for the purpose of living for Him! To die to our own plans, our own ambitions, our own desires, our own goals, our own praise and glory, our own fame and fortune. . . all for the purpose of fulfilling His plans, ambitions, desires. . .

Gal. 2:20 - *"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."*

"The only good Christian is a dead Christian" (dead to self, that is).

"And follow Me" - Jesus is not calling upon us to deny self and die to self for no purpose. Our purpose is to free us from that which keeps us from following Christ.

How well you follow Christ can be measured by how often you choose His ways over yours!

IV. A willingness to Continually Trust & Obey Christ's Word

(John 8:31)

(Will Christ's Words stay firmly imbedded in your Heart & Life till the end?)

Some might profess to be believers (or true disciples) but the real test is whether or not they remain committed to the Word of Christ.

Jesus now singles out those whose faith has been ignited upon hearing His Words.

"Continue" = to <u>remain</u> or <u>abide</u> in the Word of Christ

The grand mark of a true disciple of Christ is <u>continuity</u> in His Gospel message.

A true disciple is one who holds on to the truth and never lets go. There is <u>no</u> apostasy for a true disciple; there are no defectors from genuine Christianity; there is no true child of God who will ever abandon his/her faith in the word of Christ.

"Then <u>are</u> ye" – Jesus uses His words carefully. He does <u>not</u> say "then <u>will ye</u> be."

He is not saying that continuing in His Word will <u>make</u> you a disciple, but rather that continuing in His Word <u>reveals</u> that you "<u>are</u>" a true disciple.

"My disciples indeed" – A disciple is one who has come under the spiritual teachings and disciplines of His master (the word discipline and disciple are related terms).

The word "disciple" refers to one who has been trained in such a way that he mimics, imitates, or copies the lessons and lifestyle of his teacher.

That is why the first-century Antiochian believers were called "Christians," because others noticed how much they resembled Christ (in their actions and reactions, in their attitudes and motivations).

"Disciples <u>indeed</u>" – the word "indeed" means truly. It is the same word as the word "truth" in v. 32.

A disciple "indeed" refers to a true, bonafied, real or genuine disciple. The statement then does <u>not</u> refer to a good disciple or a better disciple (as if some might assume that Jesus is implying that one might be a disciple but not a good one, unless He continues in His Word).

Here, Jesus is referring to a real disciple (is a real Christian) as opposed to a false one.

Jesus is saying: "Your future loyalty to My teaching will prove the reality of your present profession. . . continuance in the word (teaching) proves the sincerity or insincerity of the profession. It is the acid test of life" (R.W.P. p. 149).

V. A willingness to Yoke Up Daily with The Master Having a Teachable Spirit in the School of Christ (Matthew 11:28-30)

(Will you Let the Lord Teach you about Himself everyday?)

"Take My yoke and learn" - Jesus is actually quoting a well-known Jewish metaphor for discipline and discipleship - "Put your neck under the yoke, and let your soul receive instruction" (Sir 51:26).

To learn ("mathete") from Jesus is to be His disciple ("mathetes").

Christ alone is the Teacher, who by His person and work can instruct men regarding the Father (cp. v. 25-27) (Wycliffe Bible Comm, p. 949).

"Learn of me" = learn from (apo) me.

True learning takes place in the life of one who is walking each day with Christ.

Note: How people took notice how the unlearned & ignorant fishermen from Galilee had "been with Jesus"

To be like Mary of Bethany and sit at the feet of Jesus is the key to acquiring profound spiritual knowledge (Luke 10:39-42).

True humility is learned only from the Master (Jn. 13:15).

True love is learned only from the Master (Jn. 15:13).

True forgiveness is learned only from the Master (Jn. 8:11; Lk. 23:34, 43).

True peace is learned only from the Master (Jn. 17:33; Jn. 14:1ff).

Lest anyone should be fearful or apprehensive to yoke up with Christ, our Lord gives these words of reassurance -

"For I am meek and lowly in heart."

"Meek" = gentle (Jesus is gentle, not harsh) "He upbraideth not" (Jms. 1:5)

"Lowly" = humble (Jesus is humble enough to yoke up with us, humble enough to personally tutor us. Though He is God [exalted above all], He is humble enough to associate with the lowest of the low).

VI. A willingness to put Christ Above Every Human Relationship
(Luke 14:26)
(Does anyone come before the Lord in your Life?)

VII. A willingness to Pay Any Price to Follow Christ to the End
(Luke 14:27-32)
(Would you Die for the sake of The Lord Jesus Christ?)

VIII. A willingness to Abandon any & every Earthly Thing that Robs Your "Salt"
(Luke 14:33-35)
(Is there anything you would not give up for Him?)

I SEE JESUS by Summer Waters, age 11

I saw Jesus last week.
He was wearing blue jeans and an old shirt.
He was up at the church building;
He was alone and working hard.
For just a minute he looked a little like one of our members.
But it was Jesus ... I could tell by his smile.

I saw Jesus last Sunday.
He was teaching a Bible class.
He didn't talk real loud or use long words,
But you could tell he believed what he said.
For just a minute, he looked like my Bible teacher.
But it was Jesus ... I could tell by his loving voice.

I saw Jesus yesterday.
He was at the hospital visiting a friend who was sick.
They prayed together quietly. For just a minute he looked like Bro Jones.
But it was Jesus ... I could tell by the tears in his eyes.

I saw Jesus this morning.
He was in my kitchen making my breakfast and fixing me a special lunch.
For just a minute he looked like my mom.
But it was Jesus ... I could feel the love from his heart.

I see Jesus everywhere,
Taking food to the sick ... Welcoming others to his home,
Being friendly to a newcomer ... & for just a minute,
I think he's someone I know.
But it's always Jesus ... I can tell by the way he serves.

Go be Jesus to someone today! Someone's looking for you!