

Lift Up Your Eyes

Part 3: Discipleship

What is the essence of
discipleship?

FOLLOW ME

Follow Me

- {19} And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." [Matthew 4:19 ESV]
 - This was a posture of absolute surrender.
- We're called to follow Jesus and leave everything behind - to have no attachments to this world.
- Notice that Jesus didn't say, "I'll tag along while you do your thing."

Key Discipleship Point #1:

If you want to be discipled,
follow someone (as they
follow Christ).

The Process of Discipleship

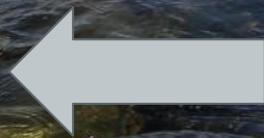
1. I do. You watch.
2. I do. You help
3. You do. I help.
4. You do. I watch.

Abraham walked off his map.

Genesis 12:1, “{1} Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Your destiny is to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

{17} Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. [2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV]



Waterfall below

{17} as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"--in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. {18} In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." {19} He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, *which was as good as dead* (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

{20} No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, {21} fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. [Romans 4:17-21 ESV]

One Way to Abide in the River of God's Presence

- ★ In death, there is rest. In our death, Jesus is glorified. The promises of God can't be birthed unless the body (flesh) is dead. The promise came by faith out of Abraham's DEAD body.
- ★ The river represents God's presence and His Spirit. We are carried along by His wind and river (His strength) as we die to our flesh (sin).

{18} Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." {19} *(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."* [John 21:18-19 ESV]

{18} Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. {19} Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, {20} ***for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*** [1 Corinthians 6:18-20 ESV]

Key Discipleship Point #2

God doesn't want to heal you as much as He wants to kill you.
(He's good at resurrections)

“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: 'Ye were bought at a price', and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

- The devil wants you dead for different reasons from Father
 - The devil is trying to bring hell on earth.
- The devil wants you to die IN sin and keep you in his pit with him. Father wants you TO sin and rescue you out of the pit.
 - You were born in sin and an enemy of God.
 - {10} *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. [Romans 5:10 ESV]*

God Wants You Out of the Pit

- {3} O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. [Psalm 30:3 ESV]
- {2} He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. [Psalm 40:2 ESV]

A Christian is not just a person going to Heaven. Shouldn't a Christian also be a person coming from Heaven, with the goods, power and virtue of heaven?

-Francis Frangipane

Key Points

1. God wants you to die; He wants your old man dead on the cross.
2. Following Jesus is costly - it's an exchange of lives. Your life for His life.
3. If you want to be discipled (directly or indirectly), get up under that person's mission and serve them and you in turn will be served.