

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE DISCIPLINES OF DISCIPLESHIP

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Part 1 of a 31 Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Faith, Wisdom, Perseverance

Introduction to the Text; **Matthew 16:24**

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Matthew 16:24

Jesus said to His **disciples**, "If **anyone** desires to come after Me,
let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

disciple

maqth/β **mathetes**, math-ay-tes'; one who learns and does.
a pupil, a student, an apprentice.

"If **anyone**"

that makes becoming a Christian - a global invitation to all who are willing.

"**desires** to come after Me"

a thirsting, hungering, a focused, unwavering pursuit of God.

Deny

ajparne÷omai **aparneomai**, ap-ar-neh'-om-ahee; from 575 and 720; to deny utterly,
to disown or disavow, to abstain from. to part ways.

take up his cross,
your issues, challenges, hardships, and calling

follow

ajkolouqe ÷ w **akoloutheo**, *ak-ol-oo-theh'-o*;
to be united in the same journey. To walk in the same way and direction.
to pilgrim along. a wayfarer or traveler

those of the old testament dispensation

Hebrews 11:13

They all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off – they were assured of them, and embraced *them* and confessed that they were **strangers** and **pilgrims** on the **earth**.

Philippians 3:20

For our **citizenship** is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

as Christian Disciples of Jesus Christ,
we're serious, passionate, dedicated & devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
“we're Christians – meaning: we're followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ.
(we learn it and then we do it)

John 4:17

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world**.

But Pastor Jack – How do I Follow Jesus Christ Like That ?

(that my friend would be **by disciplines** - “The Disciplines of Life”

>>>>>>> Creating “**Disciplines**” Like <<<<<<<<<<

A Bible **reading** routine / a **prayer** closet routine / a **witnessing** routine / a **servicing** routine / a **worshipping** routine / a **tithing** routine / a **servant** routine

(this is the basic – normal – beginners level Christianity)

Amplified New Testament // Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Concerning this we have much to say which is hard to explain, since you have become dull in your [spiritual] hearing *and* sluggish [slothful in achieving in spiritual insights]. :12 For even though by this time you ought to be teaching others, you actually need someone to teach you over again the very first principles of God's Word. You have come to need milk, not solid food. :13 For everyone who continues to feed on milk is obviously inexperienced *and* unskilled in the doctrine of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action), for he is a mere infant [not able to talk as a spiritual adult yet] ! :14 But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses *and* mental faculties are trained by practice to discriminate *and* distinguish between what is morally good *and* noble and what is evil *and* contrary either to divine or human law. :1 THEREFORE LET us go on and get past the elementary stage in the teachings *and* doctrine of Christ (the Messiah), advancing steadily toward the completeness *and* perfection that belong to spiritual maturity. Let us not again be laying the foundation of repentance *and* abandonment of dead works (dead religious formalism) and of the faith [by which you turned] to God, :2 With teachings about purifying, the laying on of hands, the resurrection from the dead, and eternal judgment *and* punishment. [These are all matters of which you should have been fully aware long, long ago.] :3 If indeed God permits, we will [now] proceed [to advanced teaching].

a **disciple** is one who becomes **disciplined**
and the act of becoming **disciplined** is called – **discipleship**.

Matthew 10:24

“A **disciple** is not above *his teacher*, nor a servant above his **master**.”

Discipleship is impossible without a Master.
Only a Master can make Disciples.

Matthew 7:21-24a

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. :22 Many will say to Me in that day, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ :23 And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ :24a “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man...”

THE DISCIPLINES OF DISCIPLESHIP

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

1.) Discipleship **requires** a conversion

this may sound almost insulting, but it's so basic and fundamental to discipleship that Satan has engineered a plethora of distractions to keep a man or woman away from true conversion.

Satan will gladly allow you some religion
to satisfy your spiritual craving to a point. After that he'll keep you busy, preoccupied and distracted until you're worn out...

DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES CONVERSATION

1a.) **Remembering** our sinful state

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:10

As it is written: *"There is none righteous, no, not one;*

An Example of the Disciples – Discipline

1Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Our Sins in the Light of His Sacrifice

Causes humility in our hearts and minds – producing gratitude and loyalty.

Luke 5:8

When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, ***"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"***

Perhaps of the Most Wonderful Examples of "Awareness"...

Luke 18:13-14

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his eyes to heaven*, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" **:14** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified

The Despondent Despairing of **Self**
Is what sets the disciple of Jesus Christ on his journey

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

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2.) Discipleship requires a cost

there's a cost to discipleship that cannot be paid
for by anyone else or by someone else. The cost of discipleship
requires personal discipline.

2 Timothy 2:21-23

Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. :22 **Flee also youthful lusts**; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. :23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

Discipleship is Obedience and Obedience is Discipleship

Discipleship is the Purest Form of Worship

2 Samuel 24:24b

"...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that **which costs me nothing.**" So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

There is a Divine Priority to Discipleship.

Exodus 20:3 – The First Commandment

"You shall have no other gods before Me.

DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES A COST

2a.) Finding our hearts' treasure

Treasures Here and There

My garage is a mess and when Lisa and I go to clean it up we seem to always disagree on what is a piece of junk and what is a treasure.

Somewhere in there is a 1967 Volkswagen bug

Matthew 6:19-21

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. :20 Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves. :21 Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.

??? Is This Extreme Faith or Normal Christianity ???

Luke 14:33

So likewise, whoever of you does not **forsake all** that he has cannot be My disciple.

Luke 21:34

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

Things That Can Destroy Us

Philippians 3:7-8

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

Matthew 10:37

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

Here’s the Meaning;

Does God Command Us to Love Others? – Yes.

Then is there a contradiction here? – not at all.

If our love for God is **first** & **passionate** & **alive** & **useful**, then it will enable us to love and care and provide for those we know and love.

Personally:

Every time that I've struggled with loving someone,
It has always been because I wasn't walking close enough to Jesus.

To love others "properly" is an act of divine worship.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;
as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

We're to make loving Jesus our preeminent goal.

Jesus Christ must be our supreme pursuit in this life.

There are people in this world that we would die for.

But there is a person in this world that we are dying for;

- Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour !!!

Matthew 6:24-26

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. :25

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? :26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

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3.) Discipleship requires a cross

Luke 9:23

Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **DAILY**, and follow Me.

as I thought about this
what came to mind was my daily routine.

I **daily** take my one-a-day **vitamins**. I **daily** drink **water**. I **daily** take a **shower**....

But also **daily pray**, **daily read**, and **daily ask** for forgiveness and **renewal**.

DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES A CROSS

3a.) Walking the believer's road

Mark 2:13-14

Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them. :14 As He passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.

Luke 9:23

...to come after Him, means that you and I must (1) deny ourselves, and (2) take up our own custom made cross (3) daily, and (4) follow Him.

Galatians 6:17

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

But What Does it Mean to "Take Up The Cross" ?

(first, what it doesn't mean: is that I can add to what Jesus Christ has done at His cross – that was a salvation cross.)

My Cross and Your Cross is "Our Daily Cross of Discipleship"

I can only imagine that - - while Jesus Christ was being crucified on Jerusalem's mount calvary, - - His disciples must have remembered those words He spoke...

"Take Up Your Cross & Follow Me"

The Apostle Paul

Was a man known for carrying his cross.

When called to follow Jesus - - **he did.**

When asked to take the gospel to Europe - - **he did.**

When commanded to explain to Caesar, Christianity - - **he did**

2 Timothy 4:5-8

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. :6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. :7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. :8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

**QUE - WORSHIP TEAM TO COME OUT
"THE MOMENT OF DECISION IS NOW"**

**"Let's Remain Seated as We Pray, No Distractions Please"
(ushers are coming forward now)**

Give The Invitation & Challenge

Church, we're going to pray

Christians, lets pray. (1) Pray that those who are lost right now will be found. (2) Pray that those who are wayward will come back home to Christ right now and (3) pray that the Lord would receive our worship and gratitude and praise in our tithes and offerings to Him...

End of Study