



# CBS



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## COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2010

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #020

**THEME:** Cost of Discipleship, Part 1

**SCRIPTURAL TEXT:** Luke 14:1-14.

**WORDS IN MARBLE:** *The price you are willing to pay, especially when the stake is raised is what makes you a disciple.*

The times we are in calls for total commitment in order to have maximum impact or Kingdom influence however only yielded vessels can rise to the occasion. The question we are to individually answer in the course of this study is: How far am I willing to go for the sake of the Kingdom? That is the cost of Discipleship.

### Emphasis:

We are starting this Discipleship series by first examining the word **disciple**, where discipleship is derived from. *Who is a disciple and what does it take to be a disciple?*

#### a. Who is a disciple?

Webster Dictionary defines him as;

1. A learner; a scholar; one who receives or professes to receive instruction from another;
2. A follower; an adherent to the doctrines of another. For this reason, the constant attendants of Christ were called His disciples, and by extension, all Christians are called His disciples, as they profess to learn and receive his doctrines and precepts.

**See John 8: 31, Acts 11: 19-26.**

#### b. Points to note from above:

- Emphasis is not on hearing the Word alone....James 1: 19-25; 2 Timothy 3: 1-9; Matthew 7: 20-23
- Constant hearing must be complemented with action to produce desired effect, James 1: 21-25; Romans 2: 13
- Hearing the Word without corresponding action is a sign of immaturity. Hebrews 5: 5-14; Matthew 7: 24-27, James 2: 19; Ezekiel 33: 30-33.
- Mark of sonship/discipleship is constant observance, devotion or obedience to the Word received, Hebrews 5: 5-9; John 5: 17-20; Hebrews 10: 5-7.

### In summary

A disciple is one who learns from his master, subscribes to the teachings of his master, follows his master and in turn, teaches or does exactly as the master will do. Paul told his disciples "*Imitate me as I imitate Christ*", 1 Corinth. 11:1; 2 Thess. 3:9; 2 Timothy 3: 10-12; 2 Timothy 2:2; Phil. 4: 9 (see other Master/disciple relationship in Abraham & his servants, Elijah/Elisha; Moses/Joshua/Caleb in Joshua 14; David & his rag-tagged soldiers, 1 Samuel 22: 1-2/ 1 Chronicles 11: 10-11).

The key word is **following** or **continuing** in the pattern of the Master. Naturally, we have mentors, heroes, role models, alive or dead, who inspire us and we take after them. It happens in all areas of life. Who is your role model and in which area?

### Question

#### Are you a disciple?

In your relationship with Christ, is He reckoned as both Saviour and Lord of your life? Does He dictate the actions you take, your thought life and conversations? Proverbs 3: 5-7; Psalms 37: 3-7

#### C. The Cost and making of Discipleship (practise of discipleship)

We must understand that following, professing or believing the principles and lifestyle of the master

### **COST OF DISCIPLESHIP, PART 1** *(Continued)*

without wavering even in the face of challenges is costly; there are things we must let go of. We can not be effective except we have counted the cost. **In other words, the price we are willing to pay when the stakes are high, is what makes us a disciple.**

#### **i. Let's use the lesson in Luke 14:1-14 to explain the making of a disciple: a lifestyle devoid of excuses to his master.**

- When class-conscious aristocrats declined the invitation, societal rejects were quickly welcomed....The lame, blind...Mathew 5: 3. Attendees to the party were empty of themselves. They have no aura around their personality.
- Our priorities and ultimate allegiance must be towards Him. This manifests when demands are made or when stakes are raised. John 6: 60-end.
- It requires consistent and committed followership, as only those who endure to the end will be saved.

#### **ii. Taking a look also on Mark10:17-31, in the encounter of a Rich man with Jesus, we further profile the making of a disciple.**

- The Rich man here had a deep desire to live a holy life to please God.
- He obviously respected Jesus, and had a desire to follow Him.
- Jesus desired and longed for this man to enter into eternal relationship however the man had another conflicting desire.
- The master gave a challenge that focuses on the centre of the man's universe i.e. something that we are so attached to that we can fight and die for. Every one has a centre of universe and when such is gold, chances are we dispense with God to acquire same.
- The challenge of Jesus to this man highlighted the priorities of his life and allegiances. He prioritised gold to God and could not forsake gold for God.

#### **Given the above, it follows that:**

***Being a true disciple requires having Christ as the number one, the Numero Uno. Anything that has a higher priority in our life has to go or such will invariably become our god...***

#### **Conclusion:**

We can deduce the following from the passages of Luke 14: 33 and Mark 8:34-35:

- To get His all will cost us everything; following Him will cost our all.
- We can be active, maintain high visibility but not necessarily serving Him. True test of kingdom service is what we do when our possessions are touched.
- The real challenge is what we have to offer when He makes a demand on our very life.
- Discipleship will cost us our possessions....car, family, career, ambitions, wealth, life. Luke 12: 15

#### **Question**

What are you willing to give up, to have what He has to offer?

'It is not a fool who loses what he cannot keep to get what he cannot lose.'

#### **Prayer Focus, Matthew 6: 24-34**

Lord, I receive grace to keep your Word and offer my life as a living sacrifice for you.