

Conditions of Discipleship

Scripture: Matthew 16:24-26

Matthew 16:24-26 KJV 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. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Introduction

The conditions of discipleship we are about to study are conditions of our relationship to Jesus Christ. They are not conditions of our relationship to the church.

I. Self denial

Mark 8:36-37 KJV For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

- A. Setting priorities on eternity
- B. Abiding by those priorities

II. Renunciation

Luke 14:26 KJV If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

- A. Our heavenly relationship has precedent over the earthly
- B. Anyone who is in the way of our walk with God should be set aside

III. Be willing to give it all

Luke 14:33 KJV So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- A. Forsake -- Gr. tasso: To arrange in an orderly manner, to assign or dispose (to a certain position or lot)

- B. We are love slaves
- C. Our life belongs to Jesus

IV. Steadfastness

John 8:31 KJV Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.

- A. Our commitment to Jesus is a lifelong commitment
- B. We are not to walk away from this commitment

V. Bearing fruit

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

- A. God expects us to bear fruit
- B. If we do not bear fruit, we will be rejected
- C. If we bear fruit, we will be pruned