

# Discipleship Teaching

(1)

## Matthew 16 24-25

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever would save his life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it

To be a disciple of Jesus, the believer must realize that they are not following doctrine or scripture as such- these things point to Jesus -they guide us - they show us his character, his nature, they show us the way to please God. They show us what is pleasing to our Father in heaven and what is not pleasing. They show us what is good and what is not good, what is holy and what is evil. They show us how God wants us to treat others and how to regard others - the bible points us in the right direction-- it gives us the truth --it's a place we can go to receive guidance and direction--- It points out /convicts us in areas of our lives that are not in alignment to Gods Love.It teaches us Gods Love for us and it teaches us his ways ----- It teaches us what is wrong in our lives ----It fills us with TRUTH -----we should be in the word every day just as the mana in the desert was to be collected daily by Gods people.

It teaches us to recognize HIM, to know what he is like and how to draw near to him ---and how to obey him ---- how to hear him ---- how to have him draw near to us ---- how to Love him. It teaches us how to have a relationship with him by coming into alignment with HIM----IT ALL POINTS TO JESUS.

IT IS OUR GUIDE TO BRING US INTO RELATIONSHIP with our Father in heaven, with Jesus, with the Holy Spirit.

A personal RELATIONSHIP between God and you! Concerning YOUR LIFE- in relationship with him. NOT relationship with religion or doctrine or with what you believe or even the bible --- but a personal relationship which is interactive with the Holy Spirit who will lead and guide you into all truth as you listen and obey what he teaches you. The bible teaches us general principles for living. The relationship with God, with Jesus, with the Holy Spirit will teach these same principles ----but it will be applied personally to your very own life through RELATIONSHIP with GOD himself. NOT a man or a pastor or a teacher or a church----these can all be useful as tools which God can use to BRING YOU INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.To be a disciple we walk as Jesus walked. And how did he walk? He did not his own will -he did the fathers will through relationship through the Holy Spirit.

He NEVER let any man come between himself and God.

## John 5:30

30 I can of myself do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is righteous; because I seek not

mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

### **Matthew 17:5**

**5** While he was yet speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. **6** And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. **7** And Jesus came and touched them and said, Arise, and be not afraid. **8** And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, save Jesus only.

They were looking to Jesus only ---not to a man----Hear Ye HIM---relationship

### **mark 9:7**

**7** And there came a cloud overshadowing them: and there came a voice out of the cloud, This is my beloved Son: hear ye him. **8** And suddenly looking round about, they saw no one any more, save Jesus only with themselves.

They saw Jesus only with themselves ---HEAR HIM

### **Luke 9:35**

**35** And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my chosen: hear ye him.

It becomes clear we are not following rules and law and man and doctrine or a set of beliefs -- but HIM

Whilst Jesus did obey the law at all times ---- his ministry was all done through obeying what his father was saying and telling him to do --- through the Holy Spirit--- through his relationship with GOD. And this relationship was so strong because he did what was pleasing to his Father in heaven.

### **Matthew 3:17**

**16** And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway from the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon him; **17** and lo, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God in heavenly places and when we believe in HIM, our Father in heaven is also pleased with us, because when he sees us he sees Jesus.

### **John1 2:5-6**

**5** but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected. Hereby we know that we are in him: **6** he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked.

He walked by doing what his Father in heaven told him to do, **he lay his own will and desires down and obeyed the holy spirit.**

If we believe in our heart the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells in us----God dwells in us----He wants Jesus to come and shine and be a light through US ---- through RELATIONSHIP with the Holy Spirit----through OBEDIENCE to the Holy Spirit, through praise and worship and our individual personal interaction with God himself. -----As we achieve this by following the Holy Spirit as he guides each of us in our own lives and walks and problems and victories ----we grow closer and closer in a more and more intimate Relationship with HIM.

God uses the bible and men and people and circumstances to bring us closer and closer

into his image / the image of his Son Jesus. If we obey his voice, those circumstances, often hard to bear and hard to obey / such as forgiving, turning from sin, loving one another unconditionally, and the rest, IF WE OBEY---will bring us into the image of his Son whereby we will be more and more ABLE through HIS power and grace and mercy do the very things and greater that Jesus did.

Our flesh hates to obey, it rises up against everything God wants us to do. It will try to condemn us when the Holy Spirit is only trying to convict us. If we obey the flesh, it takes us away from God and not closer to God. We are not condemned but we are not coming closer to God if we are not obeying him. We will lose close fellowship with God and we crave fellowship with him as we get to know him more and more. If the Holy Spirit convicts us of someone we need to forgive, who really hurt us, our flesh --mind/will/emotions-- won't like it one bit. We may not WANT to obey. So it can be hard to obey --the way is hard --Jesus warned us of this, so don't be surprised, the way is hard, to whom much is given much is expected. To turn from areas of our lives that are not pleasing to God can be very difficult. But when we obey it makes us more like our savior and LORD and KING. It's the Holy Spirit that does this work of convicting us--- he does it as we read the word, as we listen to teachers and pastors and read and think on his word and as we pray and as we fellowship with other believers. He does it - interactive --relationship -- with the Holy Spirit ---to follow Jesus and walk as he walked is to listen and obey what the Holy Spirit is saying.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

**5** Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

**6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

He shall direct our path. HE WILL DO IT! Follow HIM!