

HALLMARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 10:25-39

By Raymond White

Anyone can claim to be a disciple of Christ, but claiming it and being it are two different things. In these verses Jesus gives us five principles, five characteristics of a true disciple.

[1] A TRUE DISCIPLE IS LIKE HIS LORD

Matthew 10:25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

In other words, if you really are your master's true servant, doing what your master does, you can expect the world to treat you exactly as they treat your master. **1 John 2:6** ...walk even as he walked. **John 15:18** If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

[2] A TRUE DISCIPLE IS NOT AFRAID OF THE WORLD

Matthew 10:26 Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. You are vindicated by God. **:28** And fear not them which kill the body... **:31** Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

You are protected by God, you are loved by God, so what's there to be afraid of? Even in the worst situation, eminent death, God is in control of your circumstance.

[3] A TRUE DISCIPLE DOES NOT QUIT

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. **:33** But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

What about someone who confesses Christ for awhile then stops? That's the point here. Confess Christ and don't stop confessing Christ.

[4] A TRUE DISCIPLE CHOOSES GOD ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE

Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Some people have to make tough choices. Recall the story of Lot's family fleeing Sodom. Why did Lot's wife turn back? She turned back not because she missed Sodom but because her married daughters and perhaps grandchildren were dying. **Genesis 19:14** And Lot went out, and

spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city, But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

At some point you have to make a decision and go your own way with God and not look back, and it may be that your entire family has made a different decision. The fact that Lot's wife had a good reason to look back did not save her, and that's a stern message. Hopefully, that separation will never happen to you, but if it does, you have to do what you have to do.

[5] A TRUE DISCIPLE WILL SACRIFICE ANYTHING FOR JESUS CHRIST

***Matthew 10:38** And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. **:39** He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

What did Jesus mean to take your cross? The disciples knew exactly what he meant, he meant to die. Around 6 A.D., Judas of Gamala led a revolt against Rome. He was defeated by the Roman General Varus and was crucified along with 2000 of his followers along the roads of Galilee. It is impossible for the disciples not to have seen that. They knew exactly what a Roman cross was and what it was for. And Jesus is saying to them, you may have to face that, if not literally, then at least figuratively. To "find your life" means to secure your personal safety by denying Christ under the threat of violence. The point is this: it is better to lose everything — your family, your wealth, your health, your life — then to lose Christ. There is this saying: "He is no fool who trades that which he cannot keep for that which he cannot lose."