

## Moving Believers to Discipleship

- Intro 1) Title – Redundant? Let’s analyze title:
- a. Does “Believer” = “Disciple?” → No. “Devils also believe and tremble.” Jn. 8:32
  - b. “Disciple” – Jn. 15:8 – “Herein is my Father glorified that ye bear much fruit – and so shall ye be my disciples.” MUST BEAR FRUIT.
  - c. “Moving” – To stir up.
    1. I like to be stirred up.
    2. Ways to be motivated: (a) CROSS, (b) LOVE OF CHRIST, (c) FEAR OF HELL, (d) HOPE OF REWARD. BUT . . .
- I. All Motivation really leads to this question: Who sits on the Throne of Our Hearts?
- A. Parable of the Sower – Mt. 13. 3 Throne Rooms:
    1. Wayside – I sit on the throne
    2. Rocky – Thorny – I’ll share throne with Jesus.
    3. Good Ground – Jesus reigns and rules = fruit
    4. You are one of those three people.
  - B. We say – “Well, I may not be as dedicated as I should be”
    1. Listen – Jer. 48:10 – “Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord negligently.”  
  
“He also that is slack in his work is brother to him that is a destroyer.” (Prov. 18:9)
    2. “. . . may not be as dedicated . . .”? Come on!
  - C. Mt. 6:33 – “Seek ye first the Kingdom . . .” If we claim to be Christians – Christ must come first in our lives. Must get serious about Christianity:

1. God must come before SELF
  - a. Mk. 8:34 – “And he called unto him the multitudes and said unto them, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”
  - b. NOW – are you doing that?
  - c. Selfishness is the blight of this nation (mental hospitals filled) and of the Church!

2. God must come before FAMILY.
  - a. Mt. 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.”
  - b. Hear us say – “My family comes first!”

READ IT AGAIN!

1. Daddy must be shared (don't neglect them)
  2. Pray tell: If they can't see that God us first in Daddy's life, how can they learn to put God first?
3. God must come before the WORLD.
    - a. I Jn. 2:15 – “Love not the world, neither the things . . . If any man love the world, the love of the father . . . For all that is in . . . lust of flesh, lust of eyes, pride of life, is not of the father but is of the world. And the world passeth . . . and the lust . . . but he that doeth . . . abideth forever.”
    - b. Jas. 4:4 – “Ye adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God” Whosoever would be a friend of the world maketh himself an enemy of God.”
    - c. We need to go home and look again at: boats, & guns, & cars, & stereos, and houses & . . . and see what we put first!

God requires what you love most. You will have to choose.

A Test: Abraham's only son. This is the test of faithfulness. Even good things, wholesome things, important things will become the test of your discipleship.

4. God before Self, Family and World – What else is left?

## II. Conversion = Commitment

- A. Jesus does not want nicer people. He wants new people.

1. II Cor. 5:17 – “Wherefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold all is become new.” (Jesus wants our total being.)
2. Rom. 12:1-2 – “I beseech you . . . to present . . . And be not conformed . . . transformed . . .” (Caterpillar to butterfly)
3. Mt. 17 – Jesus transfigured – We need to be something the world has never seen nor understood.
4. We are to be Christians: Not a little better – Not a few changes – Not better than most or not as bad as others – New! Creatures! DIFFERENT.

- B. Luke 14:25ff – Strongest on discipleship.

1. Hate – Father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, own life.
  - a. Hate means love less (certainly)
  - b. But in comparison appears as hate.
2. Cannot – Did he mean what he said?
  - a. Jn. 3:5 – “Except one be born . . . cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”
  - b. We believe this “cannot.”
  - c. Which is stronger?
3. Tower – I want you to count the cost:
  - a. So . . . you want to be the Church of Christ.  
. . . you want to save souls.  
. . . you want to go to heaven.

- b. Better count cost! Commitment.
- C. Someone says – “There are a lot of people not as committed as you are describing.”
  - 1. So what?
    - a. Also a lot of weak Christians.
    - b. And a lot of weak Churches.
  - 2. Noah was thought to be – Narrow minded – bigot.
    - a. But he was saved.
    - b. And they were lost.
  - 3. Opinion of the majority never changed God’s mind.
- D. Jesus meant what he said – “Lukewarm spewed out.”

III. Are you willing to pay the price?

- A. Jesus paid it all
  - 1. I Cor. 6:19-20 – “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from god? And ye are not your own, for you were bought with a price . . .” HIS BLOOD! – Acts 20:28
- B. The way of the cross is the only way to Heaven.
  - 1. I want you to know – will you pay the price?
  - 2. Hear big talk – I want to know: PAY?
- C. Crucifixion is the only way home.
  - 1. Gal. 2:20 – “I have been crucified . . .”
    - a. When, Paul?
    - b. In Rom. 6 – Paul asked: “Don’t you know what you did in baptism?”

c. Vs. 11 – “Even so reckon ye also yourselves as dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus.

2. You have been baptized, now live like it!

D. We are like the rich young ruler: Matt. 19:16 ff – 3 questions:

1. What must I DO to inherit eternal life? Good question – Do is the main word.
2. What commandments – again Do is basic.
3. What lack I yet? Heart of problem – the problem was doing and not being. We will never DO what God wants us to DO until we BECOME what God wants us to BECOME. We really need to give more, attend more, visit more, etc. Talk all day on attendance, but there are some here who have already decided they will not be back tonight.

You will not DO anything until you decided who sits on the throne of your heart.

Paul knew what conversion meant – Ex: 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey. Paul did not have to question whether he would go or not. “All that I am is yours, send and I will go.”

We cannot draw lines in our service to God . . . We can’t say this far and no farther – God would not let Abraham draw lines, all or nothing at all.

What is keeping you from commitment to God today? You know. (Pride, stubbornness, materialism, frivolity) Whatever it is - it needs to be evaluated and corrected. “If thine eye offends thee, pluck it out.”

How to Evaluate your Hobbies:

1. How much time do you spend on it in comparison to the Lord’s work?
2. How much money do you . . .
3. How much time (excessive) do you spend thinking about it?
4. What does your involvement in it say to your neighbors, friends and family?

Conclusion 1) Not optionals today –

Either: Disciple/Saved OR Believer/Lost

- 2) If Jesus came today – would you be ready?
- 3) Classify yourself:

On fire  
Stone cold  
Somewhere in-between

Rev. 3:15-16 is an answer of God to you today:

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I wish you were cold or hot. But because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.”

- 4) Decision yours – I’ll be waiting for you – while we stand and sing.