



Discipleship Bible Study

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Declaration: I Choose Jesus – Lord, Build Your House! Part 3

Focus Text:

Matthew 7:24-27 NLT 24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Romans 12:1-2 NLT “1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Sunday Recap: Being a True Disciple of Jesus Christ – Dying to the flesh

**The Following references will be taken from the Amplified Version of Scripture.*

Matthew 16:24-26 Matthew 28:19-20 Mark 2:13-17 AMP

A true disciple of Jesus Christ will reflect and embody a transformative relationship with Him, characterized by an intentional dying to the flesh. To die to the flesh is to have a willingness to leave behind your old sinful life and suffer the pain associated with its death. A true disciple must accept the necessity of self-denial and self-sacrifice, willingly staying on the altar of God all the days of his/her life. Jesus taught this vividly in Matthew 16:24, saying, “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me].’” This calls for a willingness to deny our personal desires, comforts, and ambitions and choose to serve God and others.

True Discipleship also involves an active mission to make more disciples. In Matthew 28:19-20, The Lord commands this of His followers: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age.” True disciples do not merely follow but actively engage in teaching and guiding others to and in the faith, no matter the persons

background or personal failings. Jesus wants all to be saved. Jesus reached out to the lost, the looked over and the left out. Embracing the Outcast is mark of true discipleship. You look just like Jesus when you demonstrate compassion and reach out to those considered sinners or outcasts, just as He did. In Mark 2:13-17, we see His approach to discipleship: "Jesus went out again along the [Galilean] seashore; and all the people were coming to Him, and He was teaching them. As He was passing by, He saw Levi (Matthew) the son of Alphaeus sitting in the tax collector's booth, and He said to him, 'Follow Me [as My disciple, accepting Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I walk].'" This is a beautiful illustration of how true discipleship includes inviting others into the fold, regardless of their past, and offering God's redemptive love.

True discipleship involves a continuous commitment to Christ where you are wholeheartedly dedicating yourself in obedience to the teachings of Christ, demonstrating understanding and application of His commands in daily life. Commands that start and end with His love. Discipleship is marked by love—Godly love that is unselfish and actively seeks the well-being of others. Jesus declares in John 13:35, "By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love and unselfish concern for one another." This love serves not only as a witness to the world but also as a reflection of God's nature through us. As we strive to emulate the life and character of Jesus, love is the **imperative**. As we die to the flesh and walk out His love, it shows that we have aligned our thoughts, actions, and motivations with those exemplified by Jesus, and that we are finished with our old self-focused, self-driven life.

Choosing Jesus is choosing to:

- Accept
- Follow and
- Spread the Teaching and Life of Jesus Christ!

Points of Power - What Can we Expect when God Builds the House?

- Self- Denial – Self-Sacrifice
- A Drive to make more Disciples
- Compassion and love for the broken
- Love For other Believers

Choices: In the face of a lesson such as this, it's either choose your flesh, which hates God and wants your ultimate death, or choose Jesus by nailing that flesh to His cross. The process of dying to and crucifying the flesh is crucial in the life of a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Accepting Jesus as our Savior and Lord, breaks us free from the control of our sinful nature, liberating us to live a life that reflects Christ's character and purpose through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Choose to remember, Romans 6:6, "We know that our old self [our human nature without the Holy Spirit] was nailed to the cross with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin." By accepting that our old selves have been crucified with Christ, we embrace the reality that we are no longer confined by our past sinful patterns but are free to live in a new identity anchored in Christ. The act of dying to the flesh is the acknowledgment that Christ is living in us. Galatians 2:20 beautifully summarizes this transformation: "I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but

Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." This means that the life we live should reflect Christ's characteristics, as we rely on His strength and guidance.

Look to Colossians 3:5 which implores us: "So put to death and deprive of power the evil longings of your earthly body [with its sensual, self-centered instincts] immorality, impurity, sinful passion, evil desire, and greed, which is [a kind of] idolatry [because it replaces your devotion to God]." Dying to the flesh involves actively rejecting these destructive desires that detract from our relationship with God. By doing so, we cultivate a heart that is wholly devoted to Him. Believer, Jesus is calling us into Freedom from Sin. Dying to and crucifying the flesh is a daily, moment to moment process in the face of temptation and testing that results in freedom from the bondage of sin. By identifying with Christ's death, we can walk in the newness of life, empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead lives that honor God!

REMEMBER - Jesus wants to build your house, live in your house and live out of your House! Choose Him Today!

Biblical summary: Choosing to follow Jesus' Teaching – Matthew 7

Main Point Summary and Analysis of Matthew Chapter 7

Matthew Chapter 7 presents vital teachings on self-examination, prayer, ethical moral conduct, discernment, and the importance of obedience in the life of a believer. Each section builds upon the principle of authentic faith and righteous living, and encourage a deep, personal commitment to Jesus' teachings. This chapter invites true disciples to reflect on their relationship with God and others as they navigate the complexities of faith and life and are exhorted to obey the teachings of our Lord and Savior.

1. Don't Be a Hypocritical Judge & Self-Reflection (Verses 1-5):

The Lord instructs us as His followers not to judge others hypocritically. Instead, He emphasizes the importance of self-examination before critiquing others. This teaching stresses the need for humility. By addressing our own faults first, we can approach others with grace and help, rather than condemnation. When our house is built on this foundation it fosters an atmosphere of love and understanding within the community that reflects Jesus's treatment of us.

2. Discernment in Sharing: Preserving the precious (Verse 6):

The Lord tells us to be discerning about sharing precious spiritual truths, warning us not to cast what is holy before those who will not value it. This highlights the necessity of wisdom in evangelism and ministry. Not everyone is receptive to the gospel, and discernment helps protect the integrity of the message and the messenger.

3. Prayer is not optional, it is Essential: Be persistent (Verses 7-11):

The Lord encourages persistent prayer with the assurance that God, as a loving Father, is eager to grant good things to us as we ask in faith and in alignment with His will. This passage invites believers to approach God with confidence and trust in His goodness. It reinforces the importance of an active prayer life, highlighting God's character as our generous and loving Father.

4. The Golden Rule (Verse 12):

The Lord summarizes ethical conduct with the principle of treating others as one desires to be treated. This is a foundational tenet of Christian morality and is essential for our walk as we follow

Christ. The Golden Rule encapsulates the heart of Jesus' teachings about interpersonal relationships and compassion. It serves as a guide for our behavior and reflects God's love in action and application.

5. The Narrow and Wide Gates (Verses 13-14):

The Lord presents a choice between the narrow gate that leads to life and the wide gate that leads to destruction, urging us as His followers to choose the more challenging but life-giving path. This illustrates the often-difficult journey of living a life committed to righteousness. It serves as a reminder that true discipleship may not be popular nor desirable to the flesh but is ultimately fulfilling and leads to eternal life.

6. Beware of False Prophets (Verses 15-20):

The Lord warns us against false prophets who appear harmless but are destructive. He emphasizes the importance of recognizing them by their fruits (actions and outcomes). This teaching underscores the need for vigilance and discernment within our churches/the community of believers. We are encouraged to evaluate teachers and leaders based on their character and the impact they have on others.

7. True Disciples Build on the solid rock (Verses 21-27):

The Lord provides a sobering warning that not everyone who calls on His name, belongs to Him. Highlighting the importance of not only doing things in His name but having the right heart in glorifying Him. He then uses the powerful analogy of builders to illustrate that those who truly follow Him will do His will, leading to stability in their lives, while those who do not will face destruction. This parable highlights the distinction between hearing Jesus' words and acting on them. True faith is demonstrated through obedience, which provides a firm foundation in times of trial, leading to eternal life with Him.

8. Jesus: The Ultimate Authority (Verses 28-29):

The crowds are amazed at Jesus' authoritative teaching, recognizing that He speaks with a unique perspective and power. As The author of the Word of God, His divine presence exceeded that of their teachers and leaders of religious law. This closing section emphasizes Jesus' divine authority and the transformative impact of His teachings. It serves as an affirmation of His role as the ultimate teacher and leader, establishing the need for listeners to respond to His message with trustful obedience.

Discussion Questions (for personal reflection, small groups or in-home family bible studies):

1. What is True Disciple of Jesus Christ?
2. What does a True Disciple look like (Actions & Attitudes)?
3. What actions are you taking to ensure you are walking the narrow way?

Be BRAVE! Be Ready Act Victoriously Everyday!