

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (June 19, 2022)

For Personal or Group Study

What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? What does it mean to follow Christ?

One of the problems today, is that many think that when they become a Christian that they simply add Jesus to their life. In other words, they keep, for the most part, living their lives with Jesus now added into the mix. Oh, they've changed a few things perhaps but it's still their lives and their will and their ways. They listen to Christian radio and speak the language and hang out with Christian friends but is this what Jesus has in mind for His followers?

This is not what our Lord calls Christianity. Today, we're going to look at a text of Scripture that is one of the most challenging passages in the entire Bible. It's a call for the followers of Christ to love Him and His people more than we love ourselves. It's a call to examine ourselves and our treasures to see just how we line up. This is a passage that leaves little ground for self-deception. Jesus is pretty clear with His terms to be a disciple.

## **TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW**

SERMON PASSAGE: LUKE 9:18-36

<sup>18</sup> Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" <sup>19</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

<sup>20</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." <sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? <sup>26</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. <sup>27</sup> "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

<sup>28</sup> About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> As he was

praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. <sup>31</sup> They spoke about his departure,<sup>[a]</sup> which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup> As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

<sup>34</sup> While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." <sup>36</sup> When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

## **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. Why would Jesus be interested in an opinion poll?
2. Why does Jesus ask the follow-up question?
3. Why doesn't Jesus want them to tell anyone he is the Christ?
4. How might the disciples felt about verse 22?
5. What are the three activities Jesus says we must do to follow him? Verse 23

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

6. What does it mean specifically to you to: (a) deny yourself, (b) take up your cross daily, (c) follow Christ, (d) lose your life?
7. Have you ever been ashamed of Christ?
8. Why would Jesus take these three disciples to witness this event?
9. Why is this event misunderstood by Peter? Verse 33

## **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

10. Knowing what you know now, would you reconsider your commitment to Christ? Why or why not?
11. When it comes to listening to Jesus, how hard of hearing are you?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray.