

“A Disciple of Jesus Christ”

Mark 8:34-38

Introduction

- I. There are many people who believe that they are disciples of Christ, but are they really?
- II. In order to be a true disciple of Christ, there are certain requirements that must be met.

Discussion

- I. To begin discipleship, one must have the desire.
 - A. Desire is a leading cause of many things, both good and bad (James 1:12-14; 1 Tim. 3:1).
 - B. Some do not understand true discipleship.
 1. Some were only concerned with getting a free meal.
 2. Some thought that one could be a disciple in private (John 3:1-2).
 3. Some did not want to stay a disciple because of lack of understanding (John 6:66).
- II. To continue one's path to discipleship, one must deny himself.
 - A. Jesus is the perfect example of this characteristic (Phil. 2:5-8; John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Luke 22:42).
 - B. Paul understood the need to deny self (Gal. 2:20).
- III. The process of discipleship also involves the “carrying of one's cross” (Matt. 10:22; cf. the cross of Jesus).
- IV. To truly be a disciple, one must follow Jesus.
 - A. This is not always going to be the easiest way to go (Matt. 7:13-14; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12).
 - B. The result will be worth it (2 Cor. 5:1-8; Rev. 2:10).
- V. One needs to understand the warning and assurance that Jesus gives.
 - A. Those more concerned with their physical lives will lose (Heb. 11:25; 2 Cor. 5:9-11; Heb. 9:27).
 - B. Those willing to give their physical lives for Christ will win (Acts 7:56; 12:1ff.; Matt. 11:28-30; John 10:29).

Conclusion

- I. Do we really want to be disciples of Jesus?
- II. In order to do such, we must be willing to do what is necessary.