

Discipleship with a Purpose Pt 4

Rom 12:11

- We all know that we've been created in the image of the Lord, and that He's given to us characteristics that mirror Who He is. Like the scripture that tells us > **Ex 20:5** that the Lord is a jealous God and that He will visit the iniquity of the people to the **3rd-4th** generation for their sin. But notice what makes Him jealous > **Ex 20:3-4** making carved images to worship in the Lord's place. Nothing incites the Lord more than for His people to put other things before Him, this word Jealous means to get so angry as to be boiling over, wow He's so mad He's steaming.
- **Rom 12:11** were told to serve the Lord with fervency of spirit, the word "**fervent**" means hot, to glow, or boiling liquids, like a pot of water or oatmeal rising up and falling out of the pot because it's so hot it rises over the barrier. Folks this is how the Lord wants you and I to be when it comes to serving Him, He wants us to be so hot, so on fire for Him, that we glow and rise above whatever barrier the world, the flesh or Satan is using against us, and spill over into the world.
- Yet so many when it comes to their service for God see it as burdensome or boring, somebody comes up to you at the job and ask what are you doing tonight? You answer I guess I'm going to "bible study" you don't sound too excited about it, I am but I'm tired, then a yawn.
- How in the world do you expect people to want to come to that if you invite them, it sounds more like you'd rather be doing what they're doing that night instead of hearing the Word, worshipping with the body, out front ushering folks in the doors. In preparing this message I have to examine myself, as there are some things that I make every effort not to miss or at least find out what has happened > Md football, basketball, if I miss it I make sure it's been DVR. Even before the season I found out who the new players are, and what improvements can I expect.
- I must ask I know your just as **passionate** maybe not about this but something else, do you approach the Kingdom of God in the same way, are that in tune with what's happening now in the body, or in this body your church, are you asking what's on the horizon, are you in the days before looking forward to being in God's house, the day before praying for the service and the hearts of those who will be attending. We must measure our temperature gage when it comes to how we feel about serving the Lord and serving His people.
- **Lk 14:33** Jesus told us "He is either Lord of all or not at all in our lives" but notice the choice is ours, He leaves it up to us. **Forsake**- to say farewell, to dismiss, to send away, it's not saying we must take a vow of poverty or give away our possessions in order to follow Christ, He's simply saying that we are to surrender our claim to our possessions, relationships, goals, desires, because the true disciple can only have one obsession and that's **Jesus Christ** and His **glory**.

- This is easier said than done, most of us will agree with this concept; the problem we run into is how to make it a reality. One of the main things we need to realize in order to make this a reality is to see how much we are needed, Passion is not always natural, but it can be produced through repetition. I may not start out being enthusiastic about doing something but when I see how much of a difference I'm making, then it becomes a fervent desire to continue doing it as I see the difference I'm making.
- An example of this is **2 Tim 3:1-5**- here is a description of society in Paul's day that seems to be an accurate description of our society today, look at what is said and tell me if this is not today. We see the need > **Math 9:37-38**- Jesus said the harvest is plentiful that wasn't the problem, as He also said the well don't need a physician only those who are sick, the problem is there's a lack of those willing to work.
- Laborer- here is not just those who show up to work, but those who show up to do a full day's work, they're not there just for a paycheck but they truly see the value of their work, how needed it is, and if they don't do it many will suffer because of it. Do I look at my service like that, how that if I don't show up or if I do but don't bring the right attitude or effort, that many may suffer because of it.
- You know a **heart surgeon** if he's not on top of his game someone could die, a **police officer** a lack of judgment someone could die, a **paramedic** having a nonchalant attitude is late on a call like so many are late to church someone could lose their life, what makes you who have the Spirit of God living in you any different?
- The answer is your not, I saw a survey that asked **600** people if they owned a bible, **93%** said they do, but only **55%** said they read it and even more shocking only **25%** said they read it every day, so out of **600** people a mere **125** said they read every day, no wonder the church is in trouble. So at the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart, if we're not getting God's Word in our heart on a daily basis then other things are going to take its place as the master passion. Why is it so may professing believers don't read their bibles? Is it a lack of hunger for the truth?
- One way a doctor can tell if a person is healthy or not is to check their appetite, if they're not eating or don't have an appetite it's a sign that something is seriously wrong, it's the same with Christians > **1Pet 2:2-5** says we must eat God's Word in order to grow in God's grace but also to know God's will, for the more I eat the more I know, then the more I grow.
- You and I are God's living stones, that He's building His house with by placing each of us in one another's life, this helps us to come alongside each other and encourage one another to fulfill our duty > **Col 4:17** God has given each of us **gifts to unleash** His **passion** in order to **fulfill His will** on this earth.