

## “NUTS AND BOLTS” FOR “WOULD BE” DISCIPLES

### I Corinthians 16:13-23

#### I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Becoming a “disciple”, the solution for getting along with God and others:
1. The mandate to “make disciples” – it all begins with evangelism: **(Mt. 28:19-20; Jn. 20:21)**
  2. Christ defines a disciple (not me): **(Lk. 14:26; Mt. 16:24-26; Mk. 8:34-38) (See back #1)**
  3. The components of spending extended time “with” a discipler: **(Mk. 3:13-14)**  
*(Teaching, modeling, delegating)*
- B. “Much fruit”, your “badge” for a “would be” disciple: **(Jn. 15:1-16) (See v. 8b)**
1. Defining “much fruit”: **(Jn. 15:1, 8, 16) (See back #2)**
  2. “Abiding in Me”, the “obedience factor” in being fruitful: **(Jn. 15:4-5) (See back #3)**
  3. The painful “pruning” – “an increasing Christ, and a decreasing self”: **(Jn. 3:30; 15:2)**
    - a. Priorities – “denying self”: **(Mt. 6:33; Lk. 14:26; Mt. 16:24-26)**
    - b. Confession – refuse to “quench” (smother): **(I Thes. 5:19; I Jn. 1:9; Ps. 66:18)**  
**(See back #4)**
  4. The benefit of “answered prayer”: **(Jn. 15:7; I Jn. 5:14-15)**
  5. How “much fruit” impacts the Lord: **(Jn. 15:8a)**
  6. How fruitfulness or the lack there of, impacts me: **(Jn. 15:6; I Cor. 3:3,13-15; Ps. 119:165)**
  7. Fruitfulness, my primary mandate for “following Christ”: **(Jn. 15:16) (Mt. 4:19)**

#### II. YOUR DAILY CHECKLIST FOR A “WOULD BE” DISCIPLE: **vv. 13-23**

- A. “Watch”: **v. 13**
- B. “Stand fast”: **v. 13**
- C. “Quit you like men”: **v. 13 (See Isa. 40:31; Eph. 6:20) (See back #5)**
- D. “Be strong”: **v.13 (II Cor. 1:8)**
- E. “Love”: **vv. 14 (I Jn. 4:19; 5:3) (See back #6)**
- F. “Submit”: **vv. 15-16 (See Heb. 13:17; I Thes. 5:12-13)**
- G. “Greet ye one another”: **v. 20 (See Back #7)**

#### III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

**#1 "Make disciples"** (Mt. 29:19a) "A disciple (pupil) of Christ is an eternally focused, fruit producing (Jn. 15:8, 16) servant (Rom. 6:16) who daily lives a disciplined life. He voluntarily responds to his Master's instructions with immediate, absolute, and joyful obedience. (Mt. 16:24-25; Mk. 8:34-35; Lk. 9:23-24) On a daily basis, he gives up everything, (Phil. 2:4-13; Lk. 14:26, 33; Rom. 12:1-2) his choices, his expectations, and the illusion that he is a possessor of 'rights'. Upon his spiritual birth, he is owned by his Master, (1 Cor. 6:19-20) who exercises total control over his body, his life, and the lives of his entire family. (Mt. 10:34-38; Lk. 9:57-62; 14:25-27) His identity is derived completely from a heart felt longing to here his loving Master's words – 'well done thou <sup>1</sup>good and <sup>2</sup>faithful <sup>3</sup>servant'. (Mt. 25:21-23)"

**#2 Understanding fruitfulness:** (See Jn. 15:2, 4-5, 8, 16) "Fruitfulness is wisely treasuring and aggressively pursuing the eternal over the temporal." (Mt. 6:33; 7:24-27)

**#3 Abiding:** "Abiding is used twelve times in John 15 because it is the secret to "fruit", "more fruit", and "much fruit". The branch doesn't bear fruit by struggling, but by abiding.

"We do not abide simply by having thoughts about God's will or even feelings about God's will. We abide when we obey God's will and this means submitting our will. The will is the center of the Christian life. We must graduate from obeying because we have to into obeying because we want to. v. 10 (Eph. 6:6; Jn. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Ps. 40:8; Mt. 16:23; Phil. 2:8) There is no substitute for obedience. (See 1 Sam. 15:23; Mt. 21:28-32; 25:14-30)

"Everything in the universe obeys God except man, and man has the most to gain by obeying and the most to lose by disobeying."

**#4 Confession - forgiveness:** "The biggest obstacle to build godly relationships is "justified" self-centeredness, a selfishness, that, deep in our souls, feels that our interpersonal failures are reasonable and therefore acceptable in light of how we have been treated.

So when we confess our faults to God or to one another, we usually try to explain away the sin. Explanations are requests not for forgiveness, but for understanding. Movement from self-centeredness toward Christ-centeredness happens only when we expose our excuses for these interpersonal failures, not as "understandable mistakes" but rather inexcusably selfish choices.

True requests for forgiveness never explain, they only admit, acknowledging that the error was without justifiable cause. "Repentant people" realize that their inexcusable wrong can either be judged or forgiven, never understood and overlooked, and so they beg for forgiveness with no thought of deserving it."

**#5 "Love is above all, sacrificial.** It is a sacrifice of self for the sake of others, even for others who may care nothing at all for us and who may even hate us. It is not a feeling but a determined act of the will, which always results in determined acts of self-giving, without and appetite for recognition. Love is the willing, joyful desire to put the welfare of others above our own. Love is not an emotional attraction, but a selfless, humble service to meet another's need, no matter how lowly the service or how undeserving the person served."

"God's love for man is the motive for His government and the giving of laws. A man's love for God is the motive for him obeying God's laws." J. Vernon McGee

**#6 Babyhood Exposed:** "When ever you see professing Christians fussing, quarreling about their rights, offended by what has been said about them, complaining because they don't get enough applause for what they do; put it down as the baby spirit coming out of them. (1 Cor. 3:1-3) The man of God ought to be indifferent to praise or blame. If I belong to Christ, I am to serve Him. May God deliver us from our babyhood. In some churches, ministers spend half their time trying to keep baby Christians quiet over slights. If you are living for Christ, people can't slight you, because you won't let them. It just won't make a difference to you." Dr. H. A. Ironside (See Ps. 119:165)

**#7 Bitterness/ resentment:**

"If you want to commit spiritual suicide that might lead to your pre-mature death, let something in your heart smolder against someone else, nurse it, and let others know about it. If you keep it up, a root of bitterness will form and you will be in serious trouble with God. Bitterness leads to hatred and hatred to murder either to their person or to their reputation. If people don't respond to you properly, let God handle it." Dr. Townsend

The one who sleeps with his anger, will awake in the morning with resentment.

Resentment douses the flames of life and love. It enshrines failure and evil, and it lets no one else forget. Chrysostom

When you choose to hold on to your resentment, you relinquish control of your future. You trade the freshness of the new day and all its possibilities for the pain of the past.

Resentment is swallowing poison and waiting for the other person to die.

Resentment will devastate you spiritually, destroy you physically, discourage you emotionally, divide the fellowship, defile your relationships, and deprive you of blessings.

Resentment focuses on the past and replays the past over and over again.

#### SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.