

GOD the SON

Are You A True Disciple PT 2

John 1:35-51

Pastor Jason Dennett's Teaching Notes

According to the 2013 movie "**Terms and Conditions May Apply**", it would take the average American 180 hours every year of their life, just to read all the "**terms and conditions**" he or she agrees to on websites and other agreements. It is no wonder that almost everyone checks the box indicating they agree with these lengthy documents filled with legal jargon. In fact, most of us would not understand it even if we read it. The point of the movie is that **we are often agreeing to things that could end up costing us** that which we never expected. **Many people who make a decision for Christ do not read the "terms and conditions" before saying "Yes!"** **We must count the cost** before committing to follow him.

- In this section of text, we see the word "**disciple**" used for the first time in the Gospel of John.
 - "Again, the next day, John stood with two of his **disciples**. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two **disciples** heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
- **QUESTION:** "Are **you** a true **DISCIPLE**... or simply a *Christian*?"
 - "**disciple**" is the Ancient Greek word "**μαθητής**" or "**mathētēs**", and is used over 270x in the New Testament (while "Christian" is used only 3x). This word means "**a student, a pupil, a learner, an apprentice, a dedicated life-long follower of a teacher.**"
 - **The Yoruba marriage ritual of 4 Tastings..** Vinegar, lemon, cayenne pepper, and honey are traditional choices used to represent the bitter, sour, hot, and, of course, sweet parts of life and a new marriage.
 - **LEMON:** Taste now the sour, for surely every marriage relationship admits to its share of times which are less than perfect.
 - **VINEGAR:** Taste now the bitter, for surely every marriage of depth will know its moments of denial and rejection in life.
 - **CAYENNE:** Taste now the hot, for surely there is spice and passion in every enduring marriage relationship.
 - **HONEY:** Finally, taste now the sweet, for the abundance of grace which has brought these two lovers here, will continue to pour itself out in their marriage.

- I. The **INVITATION** for Discipleship (v.35-39)
- II. The **TRANSFORMATION** in Discipleship (v.40-42)
- III. The **MULTIPLICATION** of Discipleship (v.43-46)
- IV. The **REVELATION** thru Discipleship (v.47-51)

I. The **INVITATION** for Discipleship (v.35-39) - "Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "**Come and see.**" **They came** and **saw** where He was staying, **and remained with Him** that day (now it was about the tenth hour)."

II. The **TRANSFORMATION** in Discipleship (v.40-42) - “One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “**You are Simon** the son of Jonah. **You shall be called Cephas**” (which is translated, A Stone).”

• We experience many kinds of “transformations” throughout the course of our lives...

- College..
- Marriage..
- Military or Law Enforcement

• Many Famous Name-Changes in scripture:

- Abraham used to be “**Abram**”..meaning “**exalted father**”
- Israel used to be “**Jacob**”..meaning “**deceiver, heel catcher**”
- Paul used to be “**Saul**”..meaning “**great, significant**”

• Living as a TRUE DISCIPLE will also brings a TRANSFORMATION in your life:

- **Rom 12:2** NLT - “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.”

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- **2 Cor 3:18** NLT - “..the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are **changed** into his glorious image.”

- **In 2014 Bubba Watson won the Masters Golf Tournament for the second time in three years.** The prestige of winning the coveted green jacket given to the tournament champion makes Watson one of the world’s premier golfers. How does Watson view himself? His self-description on Twitter reads simply, “**Christian. Husband. Daddy. Pro Golfer.**” After winning his second green jacket, Watson said, “Having my son means more to me than a green jacket.” His career took a dip between his first Masters win and his second, and he explained that part of the reason was the adoption of his son: “I had to be there for my new son, so golf was the farthest thing from my mind. I took some off time instead of playing tournaments. **Trying to be a good disciple, a good husband, and a good dad, were the most important things.**”

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- Over time, a **DISCIPLE** will see significant changes in his old **ATTITUDES** and old **ACTIONS**, transforming into a new type of person..

- This is what happened in the life of **Simon**, who eventually became a “**Peter**” through the molding of his Master!
 - Peter was presumptuous... Jesus made him obedient.
 - Peter was distracted... Jesus helped him become focused.
 - Peter was fearful... Jesus transformed him to be fearless.
 - **YOU???** *Your attitudes? Your actions? Your lifestyle?*

- **"While walking through the forest one day, a man found a young eagle** who had fallen out of his nest. He took it home and put it in his barnyard where it soon learned to eat and behave like the chickens. One day a naturalist passed by the farm and asked why it was that the king of all birds should be confined to live in the barnyard with the chickens. The farmer replied that since he had given it chicken feed and trained it to be a chicken, it had never learned to fly. **Since it now behaved as the chickens, it was no longer an eagle.**

"Still it has the heart of an eagle," replied the naturalist, "and can surely be taught to fly." He lifted the eagle toward the sky and said, "You belong to the sky and not to the earth. Stretch forth your wings and fly." The eagle, however, was confused. **He did not know who he was**, and seeing the chickens eating their food, he jumped down to be with them again.

The naturalist took the bird to the roof of the house and urged him again, saying, "You are an eagle. Stretch forth your wings and fly." But the eagle was afraid of his unknown self and world and jumped down once more for the chicken food. Finally the naturalist took the eagle out of the barnyard to a high mountain. There he held the king of the birds high above him and encouraged him again, saying, "**You are an eagle. You belong to the sky. Stretch forth your wings and fly.**" The eagle looked around, back towards the barnyard and up to the sky. Then the naturalist lifted him straight towards the sun and it happened that the eagle began to tremble. **Slowly he stretched out his powerful wings, and with a triumphant cry, soared away into the heavens."**

III. The **MULTIPLICATION** of Discipleship (v.43-46) - **"The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip said to him, "Come and see." "**

- **We experience many kinds of "multiplications" throughout the course of our lives...**

- College..
- Marriage..
- Military or Law Enforcement

- **Living as a TRUE DISCIPLE will also brings a MULTIPLICATION thru your life:**

- **Matt 28:19 NLT** - **"..go and make disciples of all the nations.."**
- **Acts 1:8 NLT** - **"..you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.."**
- **2Tim 2:2 NLT** - **"You have heard me teach ..Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others."**
 - **VIRUSES multiply quickly..Jesus → 12 → 1,000's → Acts 5:28**
 - **Naples, Italy, is a city on the verge of bankruptcy. There are problems with organized crime and an underfunded police department.** So what are they spending money on? They have begun to DNA test dog feces so that they can prosecute residents who do not pick up after their dogs. In a city with so many problems, especially financial ones, it is strange to spend money on dog droppings. Tommaso Sodano, the vice mayor, says, "I know some people find it funny that with all the problems the city has, we would focus on dog droppings." **Many times in our quest to be disciples of the Lord Jesus, we, too, find ourselves majoring on lesser concerns and missing the important issues.**
 - **In 1997, Jill Dejewski decided to volunteer at a vacation Bible school in a mobile home community near her house in Minnesota. She never expected that week to turn into a lifelong commitment. As she worked in the area, she discovered that many of the families living in the community lived near or below**

the poverty line, and the heads of many of those households could not speak English. She recruited volunteers and set up programs to help the people of the community. Dejewski and her team now offer after-school homework help for kids, English language classes, food distribution, legal assistance, and summer camps for children. During her frequent trips between the park and her two-story house, Jill was convicted that her family could serve the residents better if they moved in with them. So she and her husband sold their house and bought a mobile home through Craigslist. They no longer have a garage, attic, or basement, but the family is glad they made the decision to move. **Jill said, "We're just building a better future here and we're being obedient to what God's called us to do."**

IV. **The REVELATION** thru Discipleship (v.47-51) - "Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? **You will see greater things than these.**" And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and **the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.**"

- **"..You will SEE greater things.."**
 - Nathaniel was reading, and Jesus had seen Him in the Spirit..
 - What was he reading....???

- **Living as a TRUE DISCIPLE will also bring REVELATION to your life:**
 - **Jer 33:3 NKJV** - "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and **show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.**"
 - **Ps.119:18 NKJV** - "**Open my eyes,** that I may see wondrous things from Your law."
 - **2 Kin 6:17 NKJV** - "Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, **open his eyes that he may see.**"
 - **Green Bank, West Virginia, is a great place to be alone, be still, and reflect.** With a population of 143 and only one road into town, Green Bank has all the peace and quiet its residents need. In addition, it is also located in a National Radio Quiet Zone roughly the size of Maryland. This is the site of the Robert C. Byrd radio telescope that is searching the heavens for electromagnetic signals from the far reaches of creation. In Green Bank, you cannot make a call on your cell phone and you cannot text. There is no signal. Wireless internet is outlawed, as is Bluetooth. Journalist Michael J. Gaynor says, "It's a premodern place by design, devoid of the gadgets and technologies that define life today." **A few days of solitude in Green Bank, devoid of all our communication devices, might enable the serious disciple to find great time to communicate with his Master.**

- **Jesus predicted that Nathaniel, and the other disciples would eventually understand that HE was GOD the Son, the spiritual "Ladder" connecting Heaven and Earth!**
 - **1 John 1:1 NLT** - "We proclaim to you **the one who existed from the beginning,** whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. **He is the Word of life.**"
 - **Matt 16:16 NLT** - "...You are **the Messiah,** the **Son of the living God.**"
 - **Acts 4:12 NLT** - "There is **salvation in no one else!** God has given **no other name under heaven** by which we must be saved."