

FOLLOWING JESUS

If any man serve me, let him follow me... (Jn 12:26)

Lesson 3 Basic Discipleship

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In this third lesson of our Following Jesus course in Disciplo-stewardship, we are studying Basic Discipleship, a lesson that teaches the very practical or hands-on nature of discipleship. In Part 1 we started looking at the Disciplines of Discipleship, which are three: Learning, Submission, and Passion. And now, in Part 2, we pick up with the second Discipline: Submission.

PART 2

2. Submission (through genuine humility, i.e., a teachable spirit)

- A successful disciple must be continually learning submission through genuine humility, i.e., the disciple must have a teachable spirit. And at this point I want to emphasize that we can be successfully submissive on the outside (in the sight of men), but not the inside (in the sight of God), because God looks at the heart! Hence submission must be qualified with the phrases “genuine humility” or “a teachable spirit”. These phrases picture submission with a correct motive; because of a love and respect for God, who is our Chief Authority. When we submit to any authority that God has placed over us, we are submitting to God!

Learning to have a teachable spirit is one of the most liberating exercises that we will ever experience in life! We experience great freedom when we admit that...

- first, we don't know everything,

- second, we aren't expected to be experts in every area, and
- third, we CAN'T be experts in every area!

These are not “outs” or excuses to justify being lazy in our studies, but simple realities! No man can know it all and life is a continual process of learning and spiritual maturation.

- The Bible reveals a great spiritual practicality regarding submission. It is this...

God always uses authority figures in our lives to train us, protect us, and even correct us! Consider these scriptures.

- **Heb 13:17** *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (This scripture refers specifically to our pastors.)*

- **James 4:7** *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- **I Pet 2:13** *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme...*

- **I Pet 5:5** *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

Furthermore, in Mat 10:24 Jesus taught, *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.* A disciple must learn to **joyfully** submit to the authorities over him/her, be they secular or spiritual. And admittedly, this can be very hard in the workplace when our supervisors are not godly.

- But, as I stated earlier, “submitting” and “submitting joyfully” are two different things aren't they? Submitting is easy when we have good pastors, when we have good and kind bosses in our workplaces, when we have kind and respectful lawmen and law-women, and etc.

But, oh man, the real test of submission comes when our authorities are not kind, pleasant, good, fair, or righteous. God commands us through Peter, *Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the **froward*** (I Pet 2:18). The Greek word here translated *froward* is *skol-ee-os* and it is where we get our medical term scoliosis, which is the that condition where the spine bends into an S-curve. The word means warped and is used in the Scriptures to connote something or someone who is perverse and crooked. Submitting can get really hard when our boss isn't nice, and isn't kind, and isn't fair, and it can really get challenging when he/she is downright mean and cantankerous! We have all probably been there to some degree, in both the giving (e.g., as parents) and the taking (as employees)!

So God is always looking at how we respond to our authority figures that HE has set over us for training. And of course He looks at our **OUTWARD** obedience or our disobedience. But even more importantly, He looks at our **HEARTS**, i.e., He looks at the motives behind the obedience (or disobedience)! With God, **MOTIVE IS ALWAYS KING!** God blesses obedience. But He will triple-bless obedience with a God-honoring motive! When that boss is unfair, or just downright mean, it takes a lot of character not to talk back and even more character not to gossip and grumble about him/her to your co-workers. Our answer should be this... “Yes sir; I'll get that done sir.” And our heart attitude should be this... “He signs the checks; he's the boss, and it is my job to do what he tells me.” Now, speaking personally, I have not always been successful at this and so God had to make sure that I finally got it!

- So, how do we learn genuine submission, i.e., a submission of the heart? The keys to learning genuine, humble submission—in contrast to forced obedience—are these...

- **FIRST**, realize that God's system is a chain-of-command system!

When the Roman Centurion told Jesus, *Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed* (Mat 8:8) and then he further explained in v 9, *For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it*, we read that Jesus *marveled* (v 10)! That word “marveled” is a very strong

word. It means to cause great wonder, and even admiration. Now don't miss this! That answer from a Gentile soldier caused THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE to, in a sense, step back and say, "Whoa!"

And I am pretty sure I can tell you exactly what Jesus was thinking as he said these words, *I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel... Go thy way; and as thou has believed, so be it done unto thee* (Mat 8:10-13). I believe Jesus was thinking, "He's got it! He's nailed it!" Our success in life, both our physical lives and our spiritual lives, is all based upon humble submission to authority, for when we submit to any lawful authority, we are submitting to God. Jesus said, *ALL power* (from *ex-oo-see'-ah*, meaning authority!) *is given unto me in heaven and in earth* (Mat 28:18) and when we defer to our authority figure in humble obedience, with an ultimate motive to honor God, God says, "Whoa! I like that. He's got it! I'm going to honor that man!"

And of course, humble submission is never a product of the natural man. It is ALWAYS a product of the Holy Spirit working in and empowering our lives. This is why it is impossible for the lost man to please God in his obedience to authority! It is because the lost man's obedience is simply a function of his own will, and grit, and self-discipline. It is a work of the flesh, and nothing we can do, or will do, in the power of our flesh can or will glorify God!

Now let's recall our context. We are looking at the three things that are necessary to learn genuine, humble submissions. The first was to realize that God's system is a chain-of-command system. And this mention of the empowering of the Holy Spirit segues us right into point #2.

- SECOND, the Holy Spirit is the ultimate Teacher and Empowerer for us all. He teaches and empowers us and accomplishes His work through a chain of authority starting with Jesus Christ and His Word, and then the Pastor as the Under-shepherd.
- And then the THIRD key is realizing that even Jesus, the Son of God and our Example-in-all-things, humbled Himself to many authorities during his Earthly existence as a man. And so a good point to make here then is that submission is not degrading or demeaning. Submission to authority does not make us a lesser person, it does not indicate we are inferior, or even less educated. Submission is simply a Divine system by which mankind is blessed and protected.

1 - Jesus, Who was Perfect God, submitted Himself to His Heavenly Father

- **Jn 5:19, 30** *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise... I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

- **Jn 12:49** *For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*

- **Jn 14:10** *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

2 - Jesus, Who was Perfect God, submitted Himself to the Holy Spirit — After His baptism Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the Devil for 40 days and nights (Lu 4:1).

3 - Jesus, Who was Perfect God, submitted Himself to human government

Recall how Jesus paid his taxes when approached by the tax collectors in Capernaum.

- **Mat 17:24-27** *And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? 25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. 27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.*

And when he was tested by the Jewish leadership He replied, *Render therefore unto Caesar*

the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's (Mat 22:21; also Mk 12:17).

4 - Jesus, Who was Perfect God, submitted Himself to his earthly parents — In Luke 2:51 we read, *And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.* Here was God Incarnate at age 12, already understanding His mission, submitting Himself to his sinful earthly parents... because it was the right thing to do! It was the system that He had set up.

5 - Jesus, Who was Perfect God, submitted Himself to the corrupt religious and political hierarchies of His day.

When under arrest Jesus would not revile the two High Priests that interrogated Him even though they were breaking their own law by interrogating Him by night in an informal setting.

And while Jesus did explain to Pilate that he could have no power over Him at all (unless that power had already been given to him by God the Father), He did not revile Pilate or any of the civil authorities.

6 - Jesus, Who was Perfect God, subjected Himself to His creatures! — He demonstrated this by washing His disciple's feet at the Passover Supper just prior to His arrest. Jesus taught His disciples, *And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many* (Mat 20:27, 28; also Mk 10:44, 45).

7 - Jesus, Who was Perfect God, even humbled Himself before that great enemy DEATH! — Paul wrote in Phil 2:8, *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and **became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*** Jesus had no obligation to die; He was not a sinner. Yet He humbled himself; He laid himself down on that rough cross, stretched out His hands... and a few hours later He voluntarily gave up his "ghost"; He relinquish His spirit and allowed his body to die!

Jesus did all of this **because the entire concept of authority and the structure of all authority in the Universe was ordained by Him.** Paul wrote in Romans 13:1, *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: **the powers that be are ordained of God.***

When Jesus obeyed His earthly parents, He was obeying Himself. He was simply following the authority structure that He set into existence. When you obey your pastor, when you obey your boss, when you obey your teacher, when you obey the policeman... you are obeying God!

- So, in review, a successful disciple must first be a **learner**; learning is the first discipline of discipleship. He must learn Bible knowledge, gain Holy Spirit endowed wisdom, and commit to become faithful (to endure). Then the second discipline of discipleship is **submission through genuine humility**, i.e., through a motive of love for the Lord and His system of order and authority. I am convinced that God is never more proud of his children than when we genuinely submit to each other as servants. And now the third discipline of discipleship...

3. Passion (becoming passionate about God's Word and separated living)

- A successful disciple will implement what he/she has been taught with zeal and passion. But zeal without knowledge is a dangerous thing! Zeal and passion must always be balanced by God's truth (knowledge) and Spirit-imparted wisdom. Paul said the Israelites had a great zeal for God and God's Law, but they went about to practice it without understanding, and as a result they developed a corrupt works-based religion! Muslims are very zealous, but they are devoid of truth. As a result they have become a grave danger to the stability of our entire world!

And on the other hand, knowledge without zeal is equally as dangerous. Yes, we must be diligent learners but just learning for the sake of learning does no good. In fact it can be dangerous because as Paul warned, *Knowledge puffeth up* (I Cor 8:1). Simply possessing Bible knowledge without wisdom and love will make us proud and arrogant. And having a false humility will make

us despised by others because it is so easily unmasked! We have to put our learning into practice, but the motive must be a passion for God!

Remember, MOTIVE IS KING! GOD ALWAYS JUDGES THE HEART!

We must develop a yearning, a passion, to live what we learn and our motive must be God's glory, the salvation of souls, and the building up of the saints!

- Remember that James taught about passion in v 1:22, using that interesting word *doers*, translated from *poy-ay-tace'*. I introduced this verse and concept in our "Three Keys" lesson but let's revisit this verse and it's great principle.

God commands through James, *But be ye **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves* (Js 1:22). And Jesus made it clear that we can claim that we love Him until the proverbial cows come home, but unless we prove it by being obedient to His commands—*If ye love me, keep my commandments*, Jn 14:15—then we are just deceiving ourselves.

Now... do you remember the spiritual insight here in this verse in James. The word *doers*, from the Greek word *poy-ay-tace'*, means "a performer, that is, an actor, and especially a **poet**" (from Strong's Concordance). The Greek word even sounds like our English word "poet". We could therefore translate James 1:22 like this: "But be ye passionate performers, e.g., poets, of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

And so, what special truth is God trying to convey by inspiring James to use this interesting Greek word? **I believe God's intent can be described in one word—passion!** Let me ask you, "What separates good acting from bad acting?" Isn't it, very simply, a genuine passion for the art and the role? A good actor actually gets into the role. They "don" the role like a suit of clothes. The good actor mentally becomes the person that they are portraying. And isn't the poet one of the most passionate-of-all performers? Absolutely! You can't be a good poet without passion! This is why boys in Junior High and High School act as though they loathe poetry! Poetry can get "touchy-feely" really fast and boys or young men do not see that as part of this World's macho image.

And so, what is so powerful about poetry? Well let's think about it! A documentary is designed to convey facts... but poetry is designed to convey and evoke emotion, even if it is humor. I cannot fathom how anyone could sit down, get quiet, and read Robert Frost's *Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening* or *The Road Not Taken* and not be moved emotionally. Good poetry simply pulls the emotions to the surface. A good poet condenses the intense feelings of his soul into a small verbal package and its performance, if it is to be successful and convincing, must convey those intense feelings. In short then, a successful poet is driven and motivated by passion.

And so, according to James, a *doer* (a *poy-ay-tace'*) **is the believer who condenses the principles of God's Word into a passionate performance called the Christian life!** James commands us to be passionate performers of the Word, to be passionate doers of Truth! The bottom line is that if we are not serving God with passion, we are not serving God! We are just going through the motions!

- Ah, remember... there was another kind of performer mentioned in the Scriptures wasn't there? Jesus identified the Pharisees as performers, but not with the word *poy-ay-tace'*. Which word did Jesus use? He used the word *hoop-ok-ree-tace'*. And so what English word does that remind you of? Hypocrites! And that is how it is translated in our KJV.

The *hoop-ok-ree-tace'* was a stage-player, a role player; he pretended to be something he was not. The matter of genuine passion was not the issue at all for the stage player because they used the masks of the ancient Greek theatre (see photo). They would place the happy mask over their faces to convey joy or jubilation. They would put the sad mask over their



face to convey sorrow. Jesus' point was that the Pharisees were simply masked actors; they were simply going through the motions. They were only acting out roles, their parts, in an obligatory play of works-religion.

- So the following questions must be asked, and we must seriously attempt to answer, even if it becomes uncomfortable. Which kind of “performer” are we?
 - Are we the *poy-ay-tace*’ (*doers*)—i.e., the poets—of Gods Word, passionately condensing its principles and practices into a performance called “the Christian life”?
 - Or are we the *hoop-ok-ree-tace*’, the stage-player whose job it is to just go through the motions of performance? On Sundays and Wednesday nights do we put on the masks of the ancient Greek stage-players and act out our roles, devoid of genuine passion and love for the Lord?
- The Christian life must be more than just going through the motions of obligatory service. Let me illustrate with this critical illustration.
 - Did only listening to the gospel redeem us? If you are not sure of the answer, let me give it to you. It is, “No! No person was ever born-again by just hearing the Gospel.” We have to BELIEVE! This is a conscious act of the will. Paul wrote, *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God **must believe** that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him* (Heb 11:6, and, *For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the **doers** of the law shall be justified*” (Rom 2:13). There again is our word, *poy-ay-tace*’!
 - Paul’s point is this: If we, upon hearing the Gospel and being convicted by the Spirit, did not eventually run to Christ and grasp ahold of Him with a genuine, forsaking-all-else passion (a passion that we identify as repentance and faith), but instead we only acknowledged Jesus with an intellectual nod... then we are not saved!

In that same way then, if our Christian life is not performed with genuine passion, both God and man will see us not as the *poy-ay-tace*’ but as the *hoop-ok-ree-tace*’. We will not be disciples, but simply people who are, to some extent, involved in “religion”.

- So let’s sum up letter “A. The **disciplines** of discipleship” and ask, “What then, is a Christian disciple?”

Here is the answer: A Christian disciple is a follower of Jesus who is actively incorporating the disciplines of LEARNING and SUBMITTING into a PASSIONATE, love-motivated performance, called the Christian life.

So, we’ve looked at the three disciplines of discipleship. Let’s now study...

B. The process of Christian discipleship

1. Disciples are developed... not appointed

- One of the most common questions in life is: “How did you do that?” Accomplishing anything, be it whistling a tune, or making fire by rubbing two sticks, or learning a new job, involves a process.

Take, for example, learning a new job. It should be obvious that a new hire does not start out as CEO. And in the military, a recruit is not promoted to Sergeant or enrolled in OCS his first week out of boot! A new hire in a business, or a new armed-services recruit, has to go through a very natural training or development process. We understand this.

- Well, in this same logical, natural, common sense manner, the Lord’s disciples are developed, not appointed! **Jesus invested three years developing His disciples!**

2. Discipleship starts small... then builds

- The Lord’s discipleship development process usually starts small and then builds. Spiritual training happens just like our secular education and physical training.

Children in Kindergarten learn their numbers and then when they are in High School they are learning algebra, trigonometry, and perhaps calculus. They have slowly advanced in their training. A beginning runner will start with small jogs. He/she will then build endurance, muscle, and lung capacity by pushing longer and harder! A would-be runner can't just get off the couch one day and run a 10k the next! Development involves a **process**.

The Lord "disciples" us in this very same way. **Discipleship is a life-long process; it is not achieved by completing a class or a Bible degree program in college.**

- Think also how new hires sometimes start their professional careers. Even though a new hire has an education, a diploma or a license to work in a specific task or field of employment, he/she sometimes starts out with their new company in a very simple role.

- I have heard about how some companies will hire college-trained professionals, but for the first few months of their employment they are assigned to what they and the World might consider "simple" or even "menial" jobs ("simple" compared to their educational standing and their theoretical expertise).

For example, a young just-out-of-school accountant might be assigned to work in the mailroom, or in a warehouse or stockroom. A young engineer might be assigned a delivery route, or assigned janitor work or put in building maintenance. These new-hires are purposefully put under supervisors who probably have far less education, but decades of wisdom and experience in how things really get done at the grass roots level! You see, the business owner, has a plan. There is a real method to his seeming madness!

- First, the boss is testing the new-hires ATTITUDE!

How will the new-hire react to the leadership of a man/woman who knows the ropes but is, perhaps, far less educated. Will the new hire humble himself and submit to his supervisor? Will he have a teachable spirit? Will the new-hire behave responsibly toward authority, especially when he might consider the work to be "beneath" his skill set and training and the supervisor to be a "lesser" in the realm of his own book-learned expertise? These are real dangers for the immature.

The Bible principle here is this: when we genuinely submit, we are actually submitting to the Lord because He has set authorities over us in this life (Heb 13:17).

- Next the boss is testing to see if the new employee has CHARACTER.

A new-hire placed in a training role might tend to consider his responsibility as "insignificant" in the company. If he is bundling cardboard boxes in the warehouse for recycling, he might be tempted to do a half-hearted job and goof off because he sees the job as a waste of his "talents".

The Bible principle here is this: If you can't be trusted with a little, why would the Lord make you responsible over much? This principle is taught in the parables of the pounds (Lu 19:11-27) and talents (Mat 25).

And the new employee probably doesn't know it, but the boss is monitoring his/her progress! He talks to the new hire's supervisors on a daily basis. He just happens to show up and watch unseen from a distance to see if the new hire is diligent and what kind of work ethic he has.

And so when the new hire proves himself/herself with the small tasks and demonstrates a willing and cheerful submission to authority and a teachable spirit, the boss will start to move him or her up into more responsible roles.

Yes, disciples are developed, not appointed and discipleship starts small, and then builds. These are two of the processes of Christian discipleship! The third process is...

3. Discipleship hinges upon Principles, Keys and Disciplines

- The Principle of Ownership

- First we need to understand that when we trust Jesus as our Savior and become born again, He becomes our ultimate Boss and Owner. Paul writes in I Cor 6:20 and 7:23 that we are *bought with a price*, and in Eph 1:14 that we are a *purchased possession*. **Therefore everything we do in life is to be viewed as a servant to Christ!**

- Yes, we work for a human boss but technically we are working directly for Jesus by serving that supervisor. Wives may be submitting to their husbands, but God says she is actually submitting to Christ because Christ is the ultimate Boss (Eph 5:22; Col 3:18). Children may be submitting to a parent or teacher, but technically they are submitting to the LORD!

- The Principle of Humility

- Next, we need to understand that very often Jesus trains us by placing us into Kingdom jobs that are, in the World's opinion, menial. Maybe you are an mechanical engineer working for Phillips 66, but are asked to run a children's bus route (e.g., Kyle Murphy). Maybe you are a retired VP of a bank, but you do building maintenance, janitorial work and cut grass (e.g., Robin Richardson)! Maybe you run your own small business, but in the Lord's house you serve as a greeter and usher (Jim Garrett, deceased)! What type of attitude will we have toward these kinds of service?

- Here is the bottom line: **there are no "menial" jobs or roles in God's kingdom!** Picking up underprivileged kids for church, or pushing a vacuum or shaking a hand with a smile... all with a heart of devotion, love and appreciation, can earn us heavenly rewards commensurate with those given to the greatest evangelist or missionary!

- The Three Keys

And then, just like that big boss, Jesus is always in the wings, watching and judging to see if we are ENGAGING the THREE KEYS OF DISCIPLESHIP.

- 1 – Are we **depending** on HIM, and
- 2 – Are we then demonstrating that dependence by **asking** HIM through prayer, and finally...
- 3 – Are we **sanctifying** ourselves (setting ourselves apart from the World and dedicating ourselves to Him) regardless of our tasks and roles.

- Developing the Disciplines – And then Jesus watches to determine if we are DEVELOPING the DISCIPLINES OF DISCIPLESHIP.

- 1 - He watches to determine if we have **applied ourselves to learning and wisdom**.
- 2 - Then, he watches to determine if we are **submitting** to our authority figures.
- 3 - And everything is qualified by our **passions**, i.e., our motives! Are we just going through the motions of religion (are we just play-acting like the *hoop-ok-ree-tace*) or are we passionately serving because we really do love and appreciate Him (the *poy-ay-tace*)? God always looks at the heart! He looks at not only what we do, but most important of all, WHY we do it. If we are cleaning a restroom, He looks to see if our heart really in it? Are we doing it well because we want to honor God?

4. Exam time!

- Like most secular processes, God's discipleship process involves tests! After Jesus gave His 12 some training, what did He do on at least two different occasions? He gave them **practicums**, i.e, practical exams; He sent them out to **practice** what they had learned! In Mat 10 we read about how Jesus sent out His twelve and in Luke 10 He sent out the seventy. The point here is that we never become disciples by just hearing! We must put our feet on the ground and start living what we have learned!
- In the parable of the talents (Mat 25:15-30) and the pounds (Lu 19:11-27) Jesus clearly teaches that as stewards we are expected to invest our lives into growing His Kingdom while the Master is away (while Jesus is in Heaven with the Father). In each parable the stewards are given resources (considerable sums of money), and in Luke's account, ordered to, *Occupy till I come* (Lu 9:13). The word *occupy* literally means "to busy oneself, to trade". It is the idea of investing for gain.

When the Lord of the Estate returned he called each steward in for a personal audit. “What did you do with my investment?”, he demanded.

- So, the bottom-line questions are these:

1 - “Are we going to become disciples?”

2 - “What kind of disciple am I going to be? Mediocre? Hit and miss? Hot and cold? On and off? Or faithful and constantly growing?”

Jesus said (as recorded in John 15:8), that we prove our discipleship when we bear much spiritual fruit. This honors and glorifies God.

- **Jn 15:8** *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

We are responsible for what He has appointed for US to do and accomplish. We will not be compared to others successes or failures. And Paul warns that after the practicums comes the Final Exam, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad* (II Cor 5:10).

C. Summary of “Practical Discipleship”

- Discipleship then, is the process through which individual Christians are taught KEYS and DISCIPLINES by the Holy Spirit with Practicums all along the way. Again, the keys are...

- 1) **depending**,
- 2) **asking**, and
- 3) **separating**.

And the disciplines are...

- 1) **learning**,
- 2) **submitting** to your authority, Who ultimately is Jesus the Christ, and
- 3) engaging His mission with **passion**.

- Discipleship is learning about Jesus, submitting to Jesus, working for Jesus... and doing it all with a motive of love.
- Discipleship is the Lord’s process! It is so important to remember that, while discipleship is the responsibility of every Christian, ...it is the Lord’s process! He empowers, He enables, He trains, He teaches, He gives wisdom and He guides. All we have to do is make ourselves available, i.e., follow with a submissive, passionate, and thankful heart. He will do the rest.

II. Why is discipleship necessary?