

# Real Disciples

## *April 9, 2017*

### I. Four Marks Of A Real Disciple

- *The values of the Kingdom of Heaven are different from the values of the kingdom of the world.*

**Matthew 7:13-14** Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

#### ***1. Real disciples choose to follow Jesus.***

**Matthew 5:10-12** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

##### *A. Following the crowd is not taking up the cross.*

**Matthew 10:38** Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

**Luke 9:23** Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

##### *B. Commitment is constant.*

1. Life comes to those who choose it.
2. A false prophet offers an easy way of discipleship.

**Matthew 7:15-20** Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

## **2. Real disciples are known by their fruit.**

*A. What is happening on the inside affects what will happen on the outside.*

- There is a tragic end for things that produce bad fruit.

*B. Fruit must be inspected.*

**Matthew 13:18-23** “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

1. What is in your soil?

**Luke 6:43-45** “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

2. What is in your heart?

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

3. What is in your life?

- Jesus wants disciples not stalkers.

**Matthew 7:21-23** Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

### **3. Real disciples know that who is more important than what.**

#### *A. Spiritual accomplishments do not equal personal relationship.*

1. Practical obedience is the evidence of true discipleship.
2. Relationship is more important than religion.

#### *B. Are you motivated by a love for Jesus or a love for man?*

- Doing God's will is more important than doing God's work.

#### *C. Does your private life match your public look?*

1. Ultimate rejection comes to superficial disciples.
2. Jesus words are a call to discipleship more than a cause for dread.

**Matthew 7:24-27** Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

### **4. Real disciples do what real disciples do.**

#### *A. Your choices and actions determine your life's foundation.*

**Proverbs 9:10-11** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

1. We like the thrill of temptation.

**Proverbs 9:13-18** Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way, "Let all who are simple come to my house!" To those who have no sense she says, "Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!" But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.

2. We respond to the fear of the unknown.

**Proverbs 10:25** When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.

**Psalm 27:5** For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

3. We give in to the avoidance of effort.

**Jude 1:20-21** But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

*B. What you build your life on this day will determine how your life fares on Judgment Day.*

**Matthew 7:28-29** When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

**Jude 1:24-25** To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.