



Glorify God: Bear Much Fruit!

John 12:23-26

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I. Intro

"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

(Matthew 20:28)

- A. Jesus' very mission was sacrifice, wasn't it? To give His life a ransom for many ____.
- B. Today we are talking about __discipleship____...In some places it might be 'Called Christian formation.'
- C. Fact is...What we have been talking about thus far was truly His core curriculum.

II. Body

- A. **Question:** What would it be like to Always BE "ON"?

12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 **Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.** 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them". (John 13:12-17)

- 1. He Taught them:
 - a. About Fasting
 - b. Praying
 - c. How to deal with Demons
 - d. Even taught fishermen how to fish.
- 2. He also was consistently clear on something else: That there would be a COST.
 - a. **Matthew 19:29:** "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."
 - b. **Luke 14:28-29:** "28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and **count the cost**, whether he has enough to finish it— 29 lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish..."

B. **Question:** Why was Jesus SO focused in His disciple making on: Service__...Self Sacrifice__...Self Denial__...Dying to Self__

- 1. Because beyond these disciplines, He had an Ultimate Goal__

8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples" (John 15:8)

- 2. So from this what is the goal of discipleship... Bearing Fruit/ Much Fruit
- 3. That according to Jesus is the True Measure of a disciple...isn't that right??

John 12:23-26: "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.** 25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 **If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also.** If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

III. Conclusion: How do we bear much fruit?

A. There is **only one way...Death**

- 1. To DIE we must take up OUR CROSS that is ours alone _to bear...

Luke 9:23: "Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up **his** cross daily, and follow Me.

- 2. That My friends is NOT easy...otherwise there would Not be self-denial involved...