

LUKE Lesson 13

Chapter 5:27-39, What it Means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ

31 August 2018

Most soul-conscious Christians can be found serving the Lord in outreach efforts to win lost people to Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, most do not follow-up with their new converts to help them learn how to grow in the Lord. And so, the young Christian starves to death spiritually and falls by the wayside, having been abandoned as a babe in Christ. They aren't lost, but their spiritual malnourishment will severely hinder their ability to become what the Lord intended them to be.

1. A DISCIPLE LIVES IN THE WORLD BUT IS NOT OF THE WORLD.

27-29 At Jesus' command, Levi "**left all**" and followed Jesus. After that he invited many people to his house for a big feast. Clearly "leaving all" doesn't mean that a disciple must sell all his property if he's going to follow Jesus. Levi still owned a big house. Levi simply acknowledged that his life and all the things in his life belonged to Jesus, under His control. A disciple must not have a covetous spirit.

30-32 Jesus was criticized by the religious leaders for spending time with "**publicans and sinners.**" A disciple of Jesus must be in the world, but not be "of the world" (John 17:15-16). You can't win sinners to Christ by avoiding them. But you can't be a disciple of Christ if you're participating with sinners in their activities. The key is to spend time with lost sinners, create relationships, and gain their trust without joining them in any of their sinful ways.

Romans 12:1-2 God wants you to be holy. To accomplish that, you must not let the world dictate to you what is right and wrong, good and evil. The world will teach you that evil is good (Isa 5:20, Mal 2:17, Luke 16:15).

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Many things are contrary to each other and do not go together: righteousness and unrighteousness, light and darkness, Christ and Belial, a believer and an infidel, God's temple and idols.

A believer and an unbeliever cannot have fellowship because they have two differing and opposing ways of living and thinking and will not be able to work together toward the same goal. If a believer yokes up with an unbeliever, he'll end up compromising his faith and following the world.

John 17:11-16 We must live in this world without becoming a product of this world. Don't allow unsaved people to influence you. You must try to influence them.

2. A DISCIPLE FOLLOWS JESUS, FORSAKING THE WORLD. (Does not mix the two)

36-38 When you are born again, all things are become new; you are a new life in Jesus Christ. Old things are passed away (2 Cor 5:17). Jesus uses two pictures to describe your new life:

a. **You are like a new bottle fit for new wine** (the Holy Spirit). If you combine your new life in Christ with your old worldly practices the bottle will burst because the old life and the new life do not agree.

b. **You are like a new piece of cloth.** The new life and the old life do not mix; you must choose one or the other; new with new, old with old. Don't try to straddle the fence with one foot in the world and one foot in Heaven. It will tear your life apart.

Vs 39 We must not forget that unsaved people are only familiar with the "old wine" (sinful, worldly ways) and they're very comfortable with it. When you introduce them to "new wine," don't be surprised to find that they initially prefer to stick with the old. Be persistent; don't walk away never to return. Be patient and try to help them see how good the new life really is. At the same time, don't give them the impression that the old is okay with the Lord.

Joshua 24:13-27

The children of Israel are examples of people who benefited from God's grace but continued to cling to old ungodly practices learned in Egypt (a type of the world). Joshua told them they had to make a choice; they could serve the gods of Egypt or serve the true and living God (vs 15), but they couldn't serve both.

The people were convinced that they were serving God properly because of all the blessings and miracles of God they had witnessed and benefited from (vss 16-18). God's goodness toward man does not prove that those men are doing right. It only proves that God is good (Mt. 5:45).

Joshua told them they can't serve the Lord unless they PUT AWAY their "strange gods" (vss 19-23). Christian disciples must put away all forms of idolatry and worldliness if they really want to serve God.

Joshua set up a stone as a witness to their promise to serve God (vss 24-27). Jesus said the stones would "cry out" (Luke 19:40). —Modern day recording devices rely on crystals (stones) to store audio information. Joshua's stone wasn't a recording device, but God will certainly remember what the people said that day.

3. A DISCIPLE SEEKS CLEAR, DIRECT GUIDANCE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH THE WORD— BY PRAYER AND FASTING.

33-35 Jesus' disciples didn't need to fast and pray; they had instant access to the Lord in person. Disciples today must deny the flesh, read the Bible, fast, and pray if they want to make sure they're walking in the will of God. Fasting will help you to weaken the flesh that fights against the Holy Spirit for dominance over your life decisions. With the flesh put down, the Holy Spirit can get through to you and keep you on the right track.