

**Transformed Disciples: Lesson Two**  
**“How Discipleship Changes Us”**

**I. In our first lesson on Discipleship, there were to basic points that we wanted to get across:**

- A. That the commitment to living the life of a disciple is something that is central to our faith
- B. The challenge, which comes in this seemingly obvious statement, is truly living up to that standard of what a disciple truly is:
  - 1. Based on historical and textual evidence, we see that practicing discipleship goes far beyond the idea of one who is simply learning, or studying, but is a complete and total commitment to becoming exactly like our master:
  - 2. *The disciple is not above his teacher: but every one when he is perfected shall be as his teacher.*  
- Luke 6:40 (ASV)

**II. The next step that we want to take is addressing the basic question of how we begin to put that into practice: How discipleship should change us**

- A. If there was one thing that Jesus made clear in His sermons and parables to the multitudes, it was that He came to affect some *serious* changes.
  - 1. We are not speaking in the broad terms of the general social and spiritual changes that He would make, although He would certainly bring change about on these very wide levels:
    - a) What we are discussing is the deep personal changes that Jesus expected each one of us to make:
    - b) Consider the change required to answer the challenge of passages such as these: **Luke 14:27,33; Matthew 10:38-39; John 6:59-61, 66**
  - 2. We bring these passages up not to discuss the particular difficulties mentioned in the texts, but to illustrate that Jesus spoke very plainly about what it would take to be His disciple, and many were not willing to commit to that effort!

**III. Consider, that in spite of the effort of Jesus to make His point clear, that there are many who hold the belief that there is very little change that goes in to being a disciple.**

- A. Certainly there are people throughout the religious world who would teach that the Lord doesn't require you to change your lifestyle, whatever that may be, beyond a basic acknowledgement of Jesus as the Savior.
- B. There will also be many who teach that Jesus would have you make change, but it is a change that might best be described as a broad commitment to being more spiritually minded, but not necessarily too concerned with the details.
  - 1. And yet it is not either of these groups that I really have in mind in making the above statement (**III**)
  - 2. Truthfully, I have in mind *myself*.
    - a) For many, I seriously doubt that this mindset is something that is intended, or actively taught
    - b) But I fear that without purposefully having pursued this line of thought, it is trap that many Christians have fallen into:
    - c) I don't mean to imply that there are Christians running amok teaching the sorts of things mentioned in those previously mentioned groups (**III-A,B**) but rather something much more subtle:
    - d) Perhaps this attitude could be best summed up like this: Instead of viewing the transformation of becoming a disciple as creating a **New Man/Creature** I instead of thinking of it much more along the lines of an **Improved Man/Creature**

**IV. To illustrate, consider the following statement which I have both made myself as well as heard others make**

- A. In the context of evangelism, we might look at our neighbor, co-worker, friend, family member etc. who is generally a good person: Maybe they even attend a church service with some frequency at a local denomination:
  - 1. There are frequent conversations about the Bible, and maybe it seems that many times they are close to obeying the Gospel:
  - 2. Eventually this statement is made: *"Jim is so close! He is such a good person, if I could just get them to be baptized everything would be perfect! Or perhaps "If I could only get Susan to start attending at the right church, she does everything else fine already!"*

- a) Do people need to be baptized and attend a faithful church? *Of Course!* But if the above statements are what we are preaching to our friends and neighbors then we are doing them an *extreme disservice!*
  - b) And even worse, if that is the attitude that we view those around us with, what does it say about how we view ourselves:
- B. The truth is, that there is *no such thing* as a “good person” who simply needs to get a few things corrected: Every single soul needs a complete start from scratch:
- 1. Yes: often times in scripture men will be called “good”: But those contexts are in contrast with the wicked: *The wicked are not the standard that we are measuring ourselves by!*
  - 2. We are measuring ourselves by God’s standard: And in contrast to God, *no man is good: **Luke 18:19, Mk 10:18, Rom. 3:23***
- a) This is why we say that the above statement cannot true!

**V. Consider the expectations of the change to take place in the lives of disciples:**

- A. What can we learn from the parable of the two foundations? **Matt. 7:24-27**
- 1. We teach these principles to the smallest of children: “*So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ...and you’ll be prepared when the rains come down!*”
  - 2. But in this passage, Jesus must be *the all of the foundation*: We are not commanded to apply the “spackle of Jesus” on our existing foundation:
    - a) The principle is not one of using Jesus to shore up the foundation, to fill in the corners that are breaking off, or to put Him under the parts that are sinking just a bit: *Jesus must be the foundation*
    - b) That means that whatever made up our foundation previously must be complete done away with, to make room for Jesus:
- B. Listen to what Paul has to say about the change in a disciple:
- 1. **2 Cor. 5:17** Using his “new understanding” of Christ that he gained as a Christian, Paul transition to describing those in Christ as being new themselves: a new creature
  - 2. **Eph. 4:24** In the context of urging the Christians to put away their old ways, he urges them to put on *the new self*
  - 3. **Col. 3:9-10** Again: off with the old, on with the new!

C. In which one of these passages, or where in scripture, do I find any concept that the new man is anything but new? Where can I find that the new man is pretty much the same as the old, but with a few key changes?

I. This is certainly not what Paul describes as taking place in **Romans 6:4-7!**

a) While there is a broader application in context, he specifies in v 6 that it is only by a complete death of the old self, that the body of sin can be done away with!

D. Am I making the point? We cannot view the changes that *must* take place in our lives in order to be His disciple through a narrow lens:

1. *I cannot view myself, or anyone else, as a "pretty good person" who just needs to make a couple of changes*

2. *Illus. of Blacksmith: a cracked instrument of steel cannot be forged back together: it must be melted down completely and forged anew*

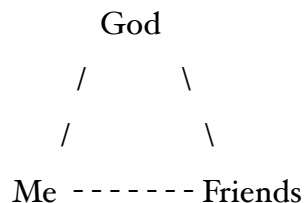
**VI. *New means new: Every aspect of our lives must be re-approached from a new perspective:***

A. Does being a disciple mean that nothing in your life will be the same? Well, Yes, and No.

1. Everything will be new in the sense that you have a different outlook, a different goal, etc.

2. That new perspective will allow somethings to be brought in to your new life, while some things must be kept out:

3. Let's use one example to illustrate the whole



4. The above is a common illustration that is used to describe our relationship with other people: We have our relationship with God, we have our relationship with them, and they have their relationship with God: If one of those lines is broken, then there is an issue that needs fixing:

5. I don't have any problems with someone using that: I think it is a very handy illustration: I do think that there is a different way that we could draw it though:

Me-----God-----Them

B. In other words, my relationships cannot exist with people independent of God:

When I become a Christian, an old man is put to death, a new man rising in its place.

Does that mean that this New Creature won't have any of the same relationships as the Old Creature?

1. That depends: I used to be connected to these relationships through many different connections: Now, with a new perspective, I am using the Lord as my connection:

a) Many people are going to be happy to let me connect to them through Him:

b) I may try for some time to connect to others using Him

c) But many relationships, I will lose, because I cannot establish a connection to them through the Lord

C. Now: take that principle and apply it on a large scale: Many times, we find ourselves still connected to things that we are only compatible with the *old creature*

1. Will I choose the same entertainment? *Will it allow me to attach the connection of the Lord?*

2. Will I dress the same way? *Can I attach to it through the Lord?*

3. Will I work the same job? *Does it try to sever my connection to the Lord?*

4. However the question is posed, "will \_\_\_\_\_ be the same?", the answer is *always* dependent on whether or not you can attach to it through the Lord

#### VII. ***A disciple has no reason or desire to argue:***

A. Why would I argue with the Lord? I would only argue with the master if I was not fully committed to being His disciple:

B. Furthermore, it makes absolutely no sense for a "new creature" to argue: Who do I think is giving instructions on what I'm supposed to do as a new creature? Am I the one with the knowledge?

1. *Illus. of a New Employee arguing with the owner of a business over how he is instructed to perform his duties*

2. *Illus. of Call in Question and answer: 2 Sam. 23:13-19*

- a) The attitude of these men! They overheard that David merely reminisced about the waters of home-- and they jumped at the chance to obtain them! They were held out as examples "THE three"

C. Do I have this attitude? Or do I ask "do I really have to questions"?

- 1. A disciple who is committed to being like the master in every way, has put away everything that made up the old man, does not argue with Jesus: He will not ask:
  - a) Do I *really* need to be concerned about my attendance...
  - b) Do I *really* need to evangelizing to my friends and neighbors?
  - c) Do I *really* need to read and study and pray..every day??
  - d) Does God really care how I spend me time?
- 2. I have to stop arguing with God! A disciple doesn't ask if it is really necessary: If he has the smallest sneaking suspicion that God wants him to do something, he will jump at the chance to do it!

**Conclusion:**

- As we continue to study the call to Discipleship, I hope that we will continue to feel challenged by the scriptures
- I certainly pray that nothing with discourage, but will exhort to strive each day to be better at answer that call:
- In our next lesson, we will spend time looking at the training of the Twelve, taking time to learn lessons from what Jesus wanted to instill in His closest of Disciples.