

100 BIBLE LESSONS

Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 36 – DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus call was a call to discipleship. The word “disciple(s)” is used 273 times in the New Testament. The word “Christian(s)” is used only 3 times in the New Testament. The reason that many people will not accept that “disciples” and “Christians” are suppose to be the same person (See Acts 11:26) is that discipleship cost you something but salvation is free. The truth is, that Jesus always called for the whole of our life for all of our life. The free gift that accompanied His call was eternal life, provided by redemption, the provision of His sacrifice, forgiveness as an act of pure grace. But as stated before, Jesus call was for the whole of our life for all of our life (1 Cor.6:19-20).

Jesus said, “the kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field” (Matthew 13:44). Again Jesus said, “the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it” (Matthew 13:45).

The price is the same for all, everything we have (See Luke 14:33). The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hid in a field, when discovered we sell all to have the field with its treasure. Jesus is like the pearl of great price which man is willing to give all to have (See Matthew 19:21).

The Bible tells the story of a rich young ruler who came to Jesus with a question concerning eternal life (Mt.19:16-29; Mk.10:17-30; Lk.18:18-30). Jesus ask him to give up his covetousness [which is idolatry, Col.3:5] so that he might follow Him. The rich man refused and walked away from Jesus without eternal life (Mark 10:22-24). Another way to say this is, that the man refused to repent. He chose rather to follow his own life and his own ways (Luke 13:3).

If you want this pearl of great price, this kingdom of heaven, you must have a change of mind and a change of heart. This change is toward God and unto His authority and away from Satan and his authority. God wants to grant you repentance that leads unto life (Acts 11:18).

Juan Carlos Ortiz, a pastor from Argentina, relates the truths of discipleship this way: *“The Bible says the kingdom of God is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of real worth, he sells everything he has and buys that pearl. Of course, according to traditional thinking, man is the pearl of great price and Jesus the merchant*

who sells everything to make the purchase. Now I understand that He is the pearl of great price, and man the merchant.

So when man finds Jesus, it costs him everything. Jesus has joy, peace, healing security, eternity. Man marvels at such a pearl and says, "I want this pearl. How much does it cost?"

The seller says, "It's too dear, too costly."

"But how much?"

"Well, it's very expensive."

"Do you think I could buy it?"

"Oh, of course. Anybody can."

"But you say it's too expensive. How much is it?"

"It costs everything you have – no more, no less – so anybody can buy it."

"I'll buy it."

"What do you have? Let's write it down."

"I have \$10,000 in the bank."

"Good, \$10,000. What else?"

"I have nothing more. That's all I have."

"Have you nothing more?"

"Well, I have some dollars here in my pocket."

"How many?"

"I'll see: 30, 40, 50, 80, 100, 120 – 120 dollars."

"That's fine. What else do you have?"

"I have nothing else. That's all."

"Where do you live?"

"I live in my house."

"The house too."

"Do you mean that I must live in my car, then?"

"Have you a car?"

"I have two."

"Both become mine. Both cars. What else?"

"Well, you have the house, the cars, the money, everything."

"What else?"

"I have nothing else."

"Are you alone in the world?"

"No, I have a wife, two children...."

"Your wife and your children too."

"Too?"

"Yes, everything you have. What else?"

"I have nothing else, I am left alone now."

"Oh, you too. Everything. Everything becomes mine: wife, children, house, cars, money, clothing, everything. And you too. Now you can use all those things here but don't forget they are mine, as you are. When I need any of the things you are using you

must give them to me because now I am the owner.” (Call to Discipleship by Juan Carlos Ortiz, pgs.42-43).

Richard P. Belcher stated, *“If one were to suggest that the time would come when a group of evangelical Christians would be arguing for a salvation without repentance, without a change of behavior or lifestyle, without a real avowal of the lordship and authority of Christ, without perseverance, without discipleship, and a salvation which does not necessarily result in obedience and works, and with a regeneration which does not necessarily change one’s life, most believers of several decades ago would have felt such would be an absolute impossibility. But believe it or not, the hour has come” (A Layman’s Guide to the Lordship Controversy by Richard P. Belcher, p.71).*

Eternal life is offered without works, as a free gift, as an act of pure grace through the redeeming work of our Savior. But it is also true that Jesus purchased the whole of our life, for all of our life (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), so glorify God in your body and in your spirit which is God’s.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read James 1:22. The word “disciple” comes from the Greek word “Mathetes” and means a learner that imitates their teacher, indicating thought accompanied by endeavor or effort. According to James 1:22, a true disciple not only hears God’s Word but also: a. applies it. b. makes CD teaching tapes from it. c. forgets what he hears. d. sells it at the Bible book store.
2. Read Acts 11:26. The a. Pharisee’s b. disciples. c. Catholics d. Protestants e. none of the above were called Christians first in Antioch.
3. Read Luke 14:26, 33 & 2 Timothy 4:7-8. Jesus always called for the whole of our life for all of our life. True or False.
4. Read Mark 8:34 & John 10:27-28. Many times Jesus simple invitation was to: a. Repeat a prayer after me. b. Attend church regularly. c. Follow Me.
5. Read Mark 10:28-30 & Matthew 19:27-29. Those that accept Jesus invitation to “follow Him” will in the age to come receive the free gift of: a. all medical expenses paid. b. anything they want. c. advice on how to use their money. d. Eternal life.
6. Read Luke 5:27-28. Jesus spoke only two words to the tax-collector Matthew: “Follow Me!” And Matthew obeyed. Matthew *“paid a great price, perhaps a higher price than any of the other disciples. A fisherman who followed Jesus could always go back to fishing. But a tax collector who left was finished, because the next day Rome would have someone else to take his place. Yet Matthew forsook everything immediately. He didn’t say, “Well, I’m coming Lord – but, hey, I could finance this whole operation if You’d just let me grab these bags!” He turned his back on it all, forsaking everything he*

had" (*The Gospel According to Jesus, p.62*). Luke 5:28 states, Matthew left: a. his mother b. his new car c. all to follow Jesus.

7. Read Acts 3:19; 17:30-31; 20:20-21; 26:20. No one who neglects to call people to repentance is preaching the gospel of Jesus correctly. It was one of the first words of John the Baptist's and Jesus (Mt.3:1-2; Mk.1:14-15) and the response that all the apostles were looking for (Acts 3:19; 17:30-31; 20:20-21; 26:20). The only people eligible to receive salvation are those who realize they are sinners and are willing to: a. pretend they are good. b. go to church. c. give to charity. d. repent.