**WEEK FOUR: WHAT IS A DISCIPLE? (PART-2)**

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**1 Peter 2:21**; **John 8:31-32**; **2 Timothy 2:2**; **Luke 6:40**; **Colossians 3:17**; **1 John 2:6**;

**A DISCIPLE IS A VERY PRIVILEGED PERSON**

* He is called and chosen by God and seated in heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:4-5; 2:6).
* Jesus is his Saviour; He died on the cross for him so that his sins could be forgiven, making him acceptable to God (Romans 5:8).
* God is his Father, with whom he has a personal relationship, so he is a child of God and of God's Kingdom (Galatians 4:6-7).
* He has been given eternal life (John 3:16).
* The Holy Spirit lives in him, giving him power to witness to his new life in Christ (Acts 1:8).
* He has peace with God (Romans 5:1).
* Nothing can separate him from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

**A DISCIPLE HAS RESPONSIBILITY**

"What would Jesus do?" Those who want to take their discipleship seriously will ask themselves this question, and others like it, in every situation that presents itself to them. This is a covenant or agreement which every Christian needs to make between himself and Jesus (1 John 2:6). When you are perplexed, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what Jesus would do in your position. He will answer you if you genuinely want to know what pleases Him. As your knowledge of Jesus' teaching and actions increases, as you read God's Word, so your ability to know what Jesus would do in any situation will increase.

**(i) Make a firm decision**

A disciple needs to make a firm decision to do what Jesus would do, otherwise he will settle for less than God's best for him and continue to grieve his Lord.

Our decision to follow Jesus is not an emotional response to the gospel but a definite act of the will. Decisions that are not carried out in experience are of little value.

There will be times when you need to submit significant decisions to those who are in spiritual authority over you. You need not fear to do that if you genuinely want the will of God for your life. Disciples are not to act in independence, but they are to be personally responsible to the Lord for their actions.

**(ii) Some of the benefits**

* There will be changes for the better in your attitude towards people, money, business practice and social responsibility.
* You will experience the refining or purifying of your life, so that many negative thoughts, attitudes and actions which are inconsistent with the life of Jesus will be removed.
* Jesus would not act in unbelief. When you desire to act like Him, He will give you the faith to do so. When necessary you can confess your doubts and ask for His forgiveness and faith.
* Love will govern your actions, words and attitudes. You will become more willing to forgive; you will have greater compassion for those in need and a greater concern for the lost.
* We inherit everything from God that Jesus inherits. If we are prepared to share in His sufferings, we will also share in His glory (Romans 8:17). Even when obedience proves costly, you will not be the loser, for God will always give back far more than is given to Him; both in this life and eternally in heaven (Luke 6:38; John 10:10).
* Changes will take place in some of your old habits because the Lord wants to see those changes in you. Submit willingly to those changes, and resist temptation to return to old habits and so compromise your discipleship (Colossians 3:17).
* By taking your discipleship seriously you will be seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. You can be confident that God will keep His promise and provide for your every need, as He did with Jesus (Matthew 6:33).

**Memory Verse**

Ephesians 1:4-5

*For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love* ***5****he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.*

**Questions and Discussion Points**

1. Should we be living as we want, or as God wants in every situation? (2 Corinthians 5:1).

2. What sort of things will anyone who has faith in Jesus do? (John 14:12-14).

3. Can we learn anything about love by God's giving of His Son Jesus (1 John 4:10-11), and as disciples remain in His love? (John 15:9-14).

4. What are the two greatest commandments of God? (Matthew 22:37-39).

5. How can we, as disciples, live out our daily lives manifesting 'agape' love towards others as God requires of us? (Romans 5:5).

6. When things get tough, can we relax a bit until we can cope with life again? (Luke 9:62). If not, why do so many Christians do this?

**REFERENCES**

● Gordon B with Fardouly D, ‘The Foundations of Christian Living’ (Sovereign. World, 2021)