

## Lesson 25: Teaching on Discipleship

Objective: To know that a *genuine* disciple *acknowledges and practices* daily, the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Background: Jesus came to announce the Good News, the arrival (presence) of the Kingdom of God (God's rule) and called men to enter it by "following" Him, becoming His disciples. But Jesus made it plain that *it costs* to become His disciples, the "Kingdom people." It requires *repentance*, forsaking one's former (old) way of life and accepting Jesus' way of life; and *faith* in Jesus the Messiah, accepting His Lordship over his or her daily life.

Instruction: Read carefully Mark 8:34-38; Luke 14: 25-33; Matthew 10:34-39 as if you heard it yourself.

### Let's Think:

In Mk. 8:34-38, Jesus gives reasons to show that by accepting the terms of discipleship He has laid down, a man attains to his true interest.

1. What conditions of discipleship did Jesus lay down plainly in Mk 8:34? Who is *preeminent* in the daily life of genuine disciples: self or Christ? (also, Lk. 9:23; Gal. 2:20).
2. What paradox of life does Jesus enunciate in Mk 8:35? Who is *ultimately the winner*? How does the very life of Jesus exemplify this paradoxical truth? ( cf. Jn. 12:24 )
3. What truth about life is implied in the two rhetorical questions found in Mk 8: 36, 37? On that scale of true value, does "the world plus" balance "the life"? Why or why not?
4. What warning does Jesus give to the disciples in Mk 8:38? Is *loyalty* to Jesus an option or required? What did Jesus predict?

What Lk. 14:25-27; Mt. 10:34-38 means is that the coming of Jesus brings tension, even division among family members, for men are compelled to take sides with regard to His claims.

5. Think of how the claims of Jesus may still cut across family loyalties today. Given examples.
6. What is the point of the twin parables --building tower and military campaign? (Lk. 14:28-32) What is Jesus' advice to the would-be followers (disciples) before they throw their lot with Him? Does Jesus ever use *gimmicks* in getting followers? Was He interested in *numbers* ?
7. Have we, the church, turned Christianity into "*easy believe-ism* " in the light of Jesus' teaching and practice? If so, what seems to be the causes? Discuss.  
What has it cost you to follow Jesus, to become His disciple thus far? Think!

Let's Remember: And Jesus said to all, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23).