

Quotations About Being a Disciple

“Jesus of Nazareth always comes asking disciples to follow him-- not merely "accept him," not merely "believe in him," not merely "worship him," but to follow him: one either follows Christ, or one does not. There is no compartmentalization of the faith, no realm, no sphere, no business, no politic in which the lordship of Christ will be excluded. We either make him Lord of all lords, or we deny him as Lord of any.” Lee Camp, *Mere Discipleship: Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World*

“Let us live not only to serve God ourselves; let us live to help our children and their children live for God.” Dillon Burroughs, *Thirst No More: A One-Year Devotional Journey*

Notice...

Remember the **Barnabas group** meeting, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

October Birthdays

1 Brandon Taylor	25 Christina Bruni
1 Angeles Lomeli	25 Kaila Pena
3 Betty Heitmeyer	28 Allan Brown
9 Esmeralda McCollum	31 Ashley Lopez

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher
Carlos Peña

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Being a disciple...

A Different Kind of Courage

By King Duncan, Collected Sermons

The father of Origen, a third century theologian, was arrested for being a Christian. Origen, then only seventeen, was aflame with the desire to follow his dad and share in glorious martyrdom. His mother pleaded with him not to go, but the headstrong boy did not want to listen to reason. His quick thinking mother did what she could - she hid his clothes. Though Origen stormed and protested, she wouldn't reveal where they were hidden. He couldn't leave the house, and so he was unable to volunteer for martyrdom.

Isn't it interesting? Origen was brave enough to be martyred, but not brave enough to go outside naked. Stepping outside without clothing would have sped up his arrest and imprisonment, but it was a step he was unwilling to take.

In a sense, I suspect that talking with a friend about our faith is for many of us the equivalent of going outside naked. It makes us uncomfortable. We feel exposed. We declare that we will give our lives for Christ if He should ask it, but to risk a bit of embarrassment for him seems to be beyond our level of discipleship. How sad. The disciples were willing to forsake everything, including the esteem of their friends.

“Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.”

Mark 5:19

A Disciple of His

Author Unknown

The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is hopeful.

I'm finished and I'm done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarf goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotion, platitudes, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by His presence, learn by faith, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is Heaven. My road is narrow. My way is rough. My companions few. My God reliable. My mission clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, returned, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus.

I must go until He comes. Give till I drop. Preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He'll have no problem recognizing me.

“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple”

Luke 14:26

Bat-Cipher and Yokes

(from HousetoHouse.com)

The selection process that Rabbis used to choose their disciples is interesting. At age 6, children began learning the Torah. This training was called Bat-cipher. From 8 to 10, they had to learn the Torah by heart (memorize Genesis - Deuteronomy). At the end of Bat-cipher, most children went to learn their family trade, but the best of the best advanced to the next level. The ones with the most natural ability then memorized Genesis to Malachi. After this, the best of the best of the best applied to a rabbi to become his disciple.

A disciple did not just want to know what his rabbi knew, he wanted to be like his rabbi, and do what his rabbi did. Each rabbi had a different set of interpretations, which was called a rabbi's yoke. When one applied to a rabbi, he grilled the applicant. The rabbi wanted to know if this disciple could do what the rabbi did: Can he spread my yoke? After the rabbi grilled the child, he might say, “You love God and know the Torah, but you are not good enough. Go learn your family business”. But if the rabbi thought the child had what it took, he said, “Come follow me”. The disciple then left his family, friends, synagogue, and village to devote his entire life to being like the rabbi, learning to do what the rabbi did. This is what it meant to be a disciple.

In the Gospel Accounts, Jesus called Peter and Andrew to come and follow Him. Picture Jesus, a rabbi, walking along the beach, saying, “Come and follow me”. He is really saying, Come and do what I can do; be like me. They were fishing with their fathers, which meant they were learning the family business. This, of course, meant that they had not made the cut; they were not considered the best of the best. They dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus told his disciples that He chose them and they did not choose Him (John 15). A rabbi chose his disciples on the basis of their potential to be like him. Jesus must have faith in us because He tells us to go and make more disciples (Mark 16:15). He actually believes that we can be like Him and live like Him! May you believe in God and may you come to see that God believes in you. That is why He chose you!

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Matthew 4:19 -