

Matthew 8:18-22 Demands of Discipleship

Introduction: Discipleship and salvation are not the same. The word disciple means “Learner or follower.” One can be saved without devoting himself to following Christ. In this text Jesus teaches two of His disciples what real discipleship is all about. (Luke speaks of a third.) The first was not called a disciple, but verse 21 infers that he was... at least in name. (Greek “another of a different kind: He may not have been saved.)

I. The first disciple and the lesson Jesus taught him. Verse 18-20

- A. Jesus had reached great heights in popularity and everywhere He went great crowds followed Him. Verse 18 (He had astounded the crowds with His preaching and thrilled them with miracles.)
- B. Jesus commanded His disciples to prepare to leave the crowds and go to the other side of Galilee. Verse 18
 - 1. Not that He was unconcerned about the crowds, but He wanted them to follow Him as the Christ and not as a miracle worker. (They would have time to think about what He had said and done.)
 - 2. Perhaps he and his disciples needed a rest physically. (A lesson that most preachers need to learn.)
- C. A disciple (a certain scribe) came to Jesus offering to go with Jesus across the sea or anywhere else. Verse 19
 - 1. This is commendable.
 - 2. He called Jesus “Master” (teacher -Greek) and appeared anxious to learn from Jesus. (Commendable also.)
 - 3. But remember that learning the teaching of Christianity will not make one saved.
- D. Jesus knew his heart and answered accordingly. Verse 20
 - 1. He had been thrilled by Jesus' teaching and miracles and expected the following of Jesus to be one grandeur experience.
 - 2. A lot of people expect the same today. (Revival all the time.)
 - 3. But Jesus warned of hardships involved. (The foxes and birds were better off then the creator in some respects.)
 - 4. If one is going to serve Jesus he is going to have to be willing to endure hardship, sacrifice, inconvenience. He will have to sacrifice time, labor, money, and perhaps suffer persecution.)

II. The second disciple and the lesson Jesus taught him. Verses 21-22

- A. He declared himself willing to follow the Lord, but desired first to bury his father.
 - 1. This seems reasonable if you assume that his father was already dead and that he proposed to join the group very soon.
 - 2. It would not be reasonable to expect Jesus and the other disciples to delay leaving until he was ready to go.
- B. But note that the scriptures do not say that his father was already dead.
 - 1. Apparently what is involved here is a man who wanted to wait until after his living father should die before he followed Jesus.
 - 2. If his father were already dead he would already be involved in the funeral activities.
- C. Jesus “No”. Verse 22
 - 1. Let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead.
 - 2. Nothing should hinder our service to God.
(Not father, mother, sister, brother, grandparent, husband, wife, not a weekend job, not more money, not pleasure trips, not plowing the garden, mowing the yard, sleep late, etc.)
 - 3. If we would serve the Lord, we must be ready to do so now.

Conclusion: We have no record whether either of these disciples went on to follow the Lord, or if they both turned back and followed Him no more.

We do know that now is the time that you and I have the opportunity to follow him. But you are going to have to make up your mind whether or not you are willing to make the sacrifice to serve Him. Also you are going to have to make up your mind whether other things are more important than serving Christ.

If you are not saved you can be saved right now.

Preached at Pleasant Hill 1-30-83 A.M