

Jesus 201

Luke 9:18-27

Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"¹⁹ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."²⁰ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.²² And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."²³ Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.²⁵ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?²⁶ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.²⁷ I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God." Luke 9:18-27 (New International Version)

Jesus shares four keys to helping believers understand the process of real discipleship.

- **Key #1: Discipleship begins with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, . . . 2 Timothy 1:12 (NIV)

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear." John 16:12 (NIV)

- **Key #2: A disciple is one who makes a conscious choice to follow the Lord daily.**

Three ways to be transformed in our relationship with the Lord:

1. Deny self.

"Deny" = Greek, *arneomai* = "to disown, to abstain, disregard own interest, surrender

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Luke 22:42 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

2. Take up your cross daily.

Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. John 15:20 (NIV)

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

3. Follow Me.

- **Key #3: A disciple is one who seeks to build God's Kingdom.**

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.²² The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light." Matthew 6:19-22 (NIV)

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.⁶ And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.⁷ So if you worship me, it will all be yours."⁸ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" Luke 4:5-8 (NIV)

- **Key #4: A disciple is one who is not ashamed of Christ and His words.**

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life— . . . 2 Timothy 1:8-9 (NIV)

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)