

DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES CHOOSING WHO WILL BE YOUR TEACHER (#1)

By Bob Young

Introduction

"We are at a point in Christianity where people do not care if you can back it up with the Bible. Their feelings, desires, and emotions override what Scripture says. They don't follow Christ, they follow self. They do not follow Christ because they do not understand who He is and because they do not respect his total authority."

- The essence of discipleship is follow-ship. Whom will I follow? Who will be my teacher? my boss?
- Authentic, genuine discipleship requires a choice. I choose my teacher, I choose my instructor. I need someone who can tell me what I must know and how to do it.
- No one is a disciple who does not choose to be a disciple. A choice is essential, necessary. No accidental disciples. An impossibility: "I intended to become a Christian but I accidentally became a disciple!"
- To be a disciple, a person must answer the question, "Who will be my master?"
- Disciples have teachers, servants or slaves have masters.
- We struggle with discipleship because we do not understand the Bible terms, master or Lord.
- No man can serve two masters, Mt. 6, do we get it?

Choosing a master means I totally give up control of my life, there is no room for a second master, there is no room for me. No disloyal, half-hearted, uncommitted disciples.

- Focusing the problem: when one speaks of "being a Christian," often the understanding is that it depends on us. "Being a disciple" makes clear that my life depends on my relationship with my master.
- I choose to adopt the priorities of my master. No uninvolved disciples.
- The master has all authority my life. No disobedient disciples.

Since Jesus has all authority (Matt. 28:18), no one else can better instruct me, guide me, protect me.

If you choose Jesus as your master, you will be compelled to ask, what does he want you to do? Matt. 28.

What are his commands, what are his instructions?

Let's talk about this choice, how you go about making a choice, what factors are involved, how to avoid a bad choice.

I want you to make a viable choice. You owe it to yourself to make a good choice. To make a good choice, review some basic Bible truths.

- God loved you so much he gave Jesus, Jn 3:16-17; 1:1,14; God the Father gave his Son, Jn 5:18; Jesus is divine.
- The identity of God as three persons in one is not easy to grasp, but what we can grasp is that the words of God the Father are the words of Jesus are the words of the Holy Spirit, Jn 14:23,24,25,26; 16:13
- The words given in Scripture are all we need in order to obey Jesus. The Bible is complete, 2 Tim 3:16-17

Many people will make the wrong choice, Mt. 7:13,14,15, 21-23

Choosing Jesus means respecting his authority, hearing and doing his words, Matt. 7:26-27

Choosing to be a disciple of Jesus may at times make life more difficult, Mt 10:34-38

Various versions of Jesus' teachings are set forth in our world, Gal. 1:8-9; not only by angels or messengers, but by family, friends, religious leaders. Choosing Jesus may bring conflict with those we love.

Remember who has authority. I do not have authority. Jesus has authority. The words of Jesus have authority.

No other master has more compassion and concern, desire to make your life easy and bearable, Matt. 11:28-29

Who will be your master? What will you choose? Will you accept Jesus as your Lord, Master?

First lesson summarized, a choice is necessary, you must decide for yourself, here are some basic ideas—

- God loves us; God sent his Son, Jesus, who shares the divine nature and has all authority
- Jesus brought the words of God, gave them to the Holy Spirit who gave them to the apostles (Bible), all truth
- The Bible (all truth) is dependable, no additions or subtractions are necessary, none are allowed
- Many people are mistaken and will not go to heaven; I must follow the beliefs and practices of the Bible.
- Being a disciple and going to heaven means I must learn and do what Jesus commands.

OK, I have decided. I want Jesus to be my Teacher. How do I listen to Jesus? Discipleship is listening -- next lesson in this series. Once I accept Jesus as Lord, another question comes. How can I be in a place where God will accept me?