

GREATER BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

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“Investing in the Kingdom of God, by Sowing Seeds for the Savior” – Matthew 13:24

BIBLE STUDY THEME: KINGDOM GROWTH BY EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

LESSON: Christ in Discipleship Part 2 – Scripture: Matthew 16:21-28

June 29, 2021

What is clear from this Scripture, is **obedience and submission to Christ** is central to being his disciple.

Obedience to God:

1. Proves our love for Him (1 John 5:2-3)
2. Demonstrates our faithfulness to Him (1 John 2:3-6)
3. Glorifies Him in the world (1 Peter 2:12)
4. Opens avenues of blessing for us (John 13:17).

Jesus tells Peter that he must **remove his human concern and self-interest** in favor for the things that concern God.

As a result, a true disciple then **loses his own will** because the things of God **take priority** which leads to **total surrendering** to the will of God.

Obedience and submission **does not cause one to lose their own identity**, rather, it means **having a right and respectful relationship with God**.

ONE’S IDENTITY IS NOW IN CHRIST – Galatians 2:20

Obedience is an attitude of the heart that enables the follower to be submissive and open to others. It is about obeying and **following all of Jesus’ commands** to go and make disciples. To do this however, **the follower of Christ must be willing to help others to get to know him**.

To drive this point home, **before one can be a disciple, obedience to all of Jesus' commands must be followed**, after all, **one cannot teach another to be a disciple of Christ without first being a disciple of Christ.**

A disciple is **a learner who seeks to follow** the ways of his teacher or master.
“**God demands absolute obedience to His commands.**”

Following Jesus will be **overwhelming**, but it is **imperative to follow**:

- 1) **Great Commandment**: love God with everything you have and love your neighbor as much as you love yourself (Matt 22:7-40)
- 2) **New Commandment**: love one another (John 13:34-35)
- 3) **Great Commission**: make disciples who make disciples.

I. Three Stages of Discipleship

- 1) Declaration
- 2) Development
- 3) Deployment

Declaration - investigation leading to repentance and faith in Jesus. (See John 1:35-2:12)

Development - (immersion, abandonment and apprenticeship into ministry) is about **continuing to grow in Christ**.

Deployment - (intentional global commissioning), is about going and serving through the Great Commission.

To multiply and make future disciples, one must first be a disciple of Christ exhibiting obedience by taking Christ at his word and follow him in making discipleship.