

Devotions: A True Disciple:

Devotion 1: Follows Jesus:

What does it mean to be a true disciple of Jesus? Many people call themselves Christians, but are they really? - Matt. 4:19-20: " 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him." From these verses we realize the meaning of the words Christian and disciple: It means to follow Jesus. The disciples immediately left their nets and followed him. In our day it does not mean you must leave your job and follow him, but you must give your life to him and start serving, knowing him completely. You must follow in the footsteps of Jesus, live and act like he did and be an example to the world.

Devotion 2: Follows Jesus: Completely

Luke 14:26-27 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." These are very harsh words. Dake's commentary explains it as follows: "An idiom of preference. One must prefer God or love him more than all else to be saved. God first is the motto of the Bible." This shows us how serious the matter of being a disciple is. We must love God above all else and serve him with all we have. Jesus loved us so much that he died on the cross for us. We must answer that great love and also love him more than anything.

Devotion 3: Becomes like Jesus through prayer

In Matt. 6:5-15 Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. Prayer is so important because through prayer we are building relationship with God. We speak and listen to him. Prayer changes us and makes us more like God. Jesus, although he was the Son of God felt it necessary to often pray. In Luke 21:37 we read "Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives..." He set the example and we must follow in his footsteps - John 7:53; John 8:1; Luke 21:37-38.

Devotion 4: Becomes like Jesus through reading the Word

Jesus says in John 8:31 "... If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." A true disciple reads, knows and also obeys the Word of God. Jos. 1:8 says "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." God's Word is so important that it must be in our minds and a part of our lives continuously. Not only must we know the Word but we must also obey it completely and live according to it. True disciples organize their lives in obedience to God and his Word. His Word gives direction and tells us how to live - Matt. 4:4; John 15:4; I Thess. 2:13; Hebr. 4:12.

Devotion 5: Becomes like Jesus through praise and worship

II Cor. 3:18 says "And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." As we spend time in God's presence he changes us: He changes us to become more like him and also who he wants us to be. In Matt. 4:10 the devil tempts Jesus by showing him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. He then says he will give all of this to him if he will bow down and worship him. Jesus answers: "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.' "

Devotion 6: Lives Jesus: Loves

John 13:34-35 " 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.' " Christians must be different. One of the ways we need to be different is, we must love. I John 4:7-8 "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love." God is love, therefore he determines our capacity to love. The more we know God the more we will be able to love. There are so many problems in the world because of a lack of love, let us know God, experience his love and portray it to a broken world.

Devotion 7: Lives Jesus: Bears fruit

In John 15:1-2 Jesus says " 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit. While every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.' " This is one of the main things that distinguishes between a true disciple or not. A true disciple bears fruit. Jesus also says you will be known by your fruit. The secret of bearing fruit is in John 15:5. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches, if we remain in him and he remains in us we will bear much fruit, but apart from him we can do nothing.