

If the cross fits, wear it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WM-maXcgEho>

Text: Serving the Lord (Intentional Discipleship)

[Jhn 12:25-33 KJV] 25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. **26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will [my] Father honour.**

Introduction

Intentional Discipleship

The Discipleship Journey

Obedience Has Two Directions

Believers and Unbelievers

Intentional Discipleship

[Mat 28:19-20 KJV] 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus had challenging moments serving his Father.

John 12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28 Father, glorify thy name.

[Luk 22:44 KJV] 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Jesus' Disciples had challenging moments as do we.

[Mat 17:18-20 KJV] 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

[Mat 26:55-56 KJV] 55 In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. 56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

The Discipleship Journey

Jesus didn't Need His Father to speak to him in an audible voice. His disciples and the people needed to hear the Father.

John 12:28b Then came there a voice from heaven, [saying], I have both glorified [it], and will glorify [it] again. 29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard [it], said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. 30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

Jesus, the One and Only Son of the Living God had Faith in His Father

Evil Spirits, the winds and the Sea Obey Jesus

[Mat 8:27 KJV] 27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

[Mar 1:27 KJV] 27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine [is] this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

Jesus Started and Finished His Discipleship Journey

[Jhn 13:3 KJV] 3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

[Jhn 18:4 KJV] 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

[Jhn 19:30 KJV] 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Obedience Has Two Directions

[Rom 2:8 KJV] 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

[Rom 6:12, 16 KJV] 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ... 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Back to Chapter 12, The Obedience of Christ brought the defeat of Satan.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me. 33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Paul's Letter to the Thessalonica Church (Christians).

[2Th 1:8 KJV] 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

[2Th 3:14 KJV] 14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

1 Th 5:27 I command you in the name of the Lord to read this letter to all the brothers and sisters.

Consequences of Obedience and Consequences of Disobedience

[Heb 5:9 KJV] 9 And being made perfect, he **became** the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

[2Co 10:5 KJV] 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity **every thought** to the obedience of Christ;

[1Pe 4:17 KJV] 17 For the time [is come] that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if [it] first [begin] at us, what shall the end [be] of them that obey not the gospel of God?

People have ideas about Jesus but often these Ideas do not line up with God's Word. Part of a truth is a lie.

[Jhn 12:34 KJV] 34 The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

Money is the root of all evil

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, used this saying 'Cleanliness is next to godliness' in a sermon given in 1778. It is not from Bible but found in Babylonian and Hebrew regions.

Believers

Jhn 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

[Jhn 12:36 KJV] While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

[Jhn 12:36 NLT] 36 Put your trust in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light." After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them.

Some of the Leaders Believed in Jesus

[Jhn 12:42-43 KJV] 42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

How can a nation that has known God Turn from Him?

When people refuse to believe, God Helps them not believe.

John 12:37 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with [their] eyes, nor understand with [their] heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

God's People's Rebellious Response

[Jer 18:11-17 NLT] 11 "Therefore, Jeremiah, go and warn all Judah and Jerusalem. Say to them, 'This is what the LORD says: I am planning disaster for you instead of good. So turn from your evil ways, each of you, and do what is right.'" **12 But the people replied, "Don't waste your breath. We will continue to live as we want to, stubbornly following our own evil desires."** 13 So this is what the

LORD says: "Has anyone ever heard of such a thing, even among the pagan nations? My virgin daughter Israel has done something terrible! 14 Does the snow ever disappear from the mountaintops of Lebanon? Do the cold streams flowing from those distant mountains ever run dry? 15 But my people are not so reliable, for they have deserted me; they burn incense to worthless idols. They have stumbled off the ancient highways and walk in muddy paths. **16 Therefore, their land will become desolate, a monument to their stupidity.** All who pass by will be astonished and will shake their heads in amazement. 17 I will scatter my people before their enemies as the east wind scatters dust. And in all their trouble I will turn my back on them and refuse to notice their distress."

We Have the Chief Believer at the Helm Representing the Father

Jesus is the Head of the Church. He knows all and sees all.

[Jhn 12:44-50 KJV] 44 Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me. 45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. 46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

[Col 1:18 KJV] 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [things] he might have the preeminence.

[Col 1:18 NLT] 18 Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

The Head of the Church gives life to the Body.

[Jhn 15:1-7 KJV] 1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast [them] into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.