

Series Following Christ Week 2

Personal Bible Study

Day: 1

Read: *Matthew 10: 16-23*

1. What does a Christian, who wants to be a true follower of Christ, expect from this world according to this verse?
2. What does your attitude and your behavior has to be like? How are you supposed to carry out your calling to be a follower of Christ according to verse 16?
3. What is it that has to encourage when the going gets tough? 9Verse 18) what is it you have to do under difficult circumstances?
4. What is it that has to make the witnesses strong (see especially verse 16a?)
5. What is the big secret to witnessing? (Verse 19-20)
6. Why does our discipleship cast us so little? Can we say that our influence is small because our discipleship costs us so little?

Day: 2

Read: *Matthew 10: 24-31*

1. *Verse 23:* Why flee? Out of cowardly fear or for another reason?
2. *Verse 24-25:* Why does the world hate the Church?
3. *Verse 26-31:* What are the reasons, given here, why we should not be afraid and why we should not keep quiet?
4. What is the specific message, in this part, for you?

Day: 3

Read: *Matthew 10: 32-42*

1. Verse 32-33: Say in your own words what the words of Jesus means here?
2. Verse 34-36: Why do you think it has to be like this?
3. Verse 37-39: What id Jesus Christ asking of His disciples here?
4. Are you willing to love Him like that?

Day: 4

Read: *Matthew 16:24-28*

1. What does "don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how" mean? (Verse 24-25)

2. Use today to look for opportunities to deny yourself and see if it brings spiritual gain for you.
3. Verse 26a: Also have a look at Matthew 4: 8-10 and Revelations 1:5.
4. Verse 26b: also have a look at 1 Timothy 2:5-6
5. Why is it that no worldly gain can ever compensate for the loss of your soul?

Day: 5

Read: *Matthew 19: 16-22*

1. Verse 16: what is the big mistake that this young man is making?
2. Verse 17-20: There is something he lacks, something without which no person can be saved, what is it?
3. Verse 21-22: Why does Jesus say this to him?
4. Does Jesus mean that we all have to literally do exactly the same? Explain your answer.
5. Why does the young man leave, saddened?

Day: 6

Read: *Matthew 19: 24-30*

1. Verse 24-26: What does Jesus want to make clear about the salvation of anyone, rich or poor?
2. Is it a sin to be rich? Have a look at Matthew 6: 19-21 and Timothy 6: 10. Does the bible say without any doubt that the rich are lost and that the poor are saved?
3. Compare verse 28 with Revelations 3:21 and 1 Corinthians 6: 1-3!
4. Is it worthwhile, according to verse 27-30, to be a Christian? Is it worthwhile for that which lies in the far future or does it have value for today as well? What would Peter have been able to say about this question?

Group Bible Study

Read: *Luke 14: 25-35*

Verse 26: *Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters--yes, even one's own self!--can't be my disciple.*

Every other loyalty in life must be subjected to our loyalty to Jesus Christ. (See also *Matthew 10: 37*)

Verse 27: *Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple.*

(Look at Matthew 16: 24 where these words are given as a positive statement)

"Shoulder his own cross:" everything, disregarding yourself.

Disciple: A student learning and following his master, living according to his masters teachings.

Verse 28-32: The Master is that it is important to think about a thing before you start it. Work out what it is going to cost you before you start.

Verse 34-35: Pure salt cannot use its power. The salt used in those times came mainly from the Dead Sea and was of an inferior quality. If the salt lost its power, it was used to pave paths, in other word it's was thrown out and trampled.

Luke 14:34: Salt is good, but if the salt has become tasteless, with what shall it be seasoned?

Luke 14:35: It is not fit for the land, nor for manure, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Mathew 5:13 Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

1. Looking at verse 25-27 and verse 33 it appears as if Jesus are trying to dissuade people to become disciples, why do you think He spoke to the crowds in this way ? (Verse 25)
2. What are the demands Jesus makes on His followers and what is the meaning of it, in practice, for us today?
3. How would you put the demands of discipleship in verse 27 in your own words?
4. What does verse 33 says to us in regards of following Christ today?
5. Discuss the following: The Lord is painting the road to salvation in this piece. He is telling us how one can become a Christian and what one must do to receive salvation.
6. Jesus likens His followers to the salt of the earth (verse 34 and Matthew 5:13.) What does it mean?
7. What is the great danger to Christians described in verse 34-35?