

What If ...

Jesus Meant What He Said About Discipleship

What if Jesus meant what he said about discipleship? He said a lot about what it takes to be a disciple throughout the Gospels: leave every one behind; leave every thing behind; follow me; love God, love one another, even love your enemy, but hate your family. Some of those are difficult to swallow, let alone embrace and put into practice. In the end, though, when you sift it all together it appears everything boils down to just one thing ... obedience. Don't memorize it. Don't study it. Don't talk about it. Just do it! And how can you tell if you're just doing it? "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." What if ... ?

John 15:8–21

1. The path really would be _____, the gate would be _____, and _____ would find themselves on it.
2. Those who enter the gate and are walking the path are blessed indeed with _____ and _____.
3. The _____ of those on the path is the abundance of _____.

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'm Up for the Next Seven Day Challenge:** Continue to pray for the lost relative, friend, co-worker, acquaintance that you began praying for last week. Ask God to enlighten their heart and help them to see. But this week add a prayer that they'd be open to an invitation. Then, by mid-week: (1) If the person you're praying for is local, invite them to your home for breakfast, lunch, or dinner and watch the worship service together. Or invite them to brunch on Sunday morning to join you for the Worship Watch Party. Remind them it's just you and them in your home ... no pressure to go to church. (2) If they're *not* local, invite them to join you for the Worship Watch Party at <https://RaytownCC.org/watch-party>.

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper

What If Jesus Really Meant What He Said About Discipleship?

Scripture: John 15:8–21

1. Read John 15:8–15. What are the costs of love and of being a true friend?
2. According to John, what does it take to be Jesus' friend and one of his disciples?
3. Read 15:16–21. What are some of the reasons “the world” doesn't embrace, understand, but rather “hates” followers of Jesus?
4. Dr. Bill told the story of Donald McGavran's definition of the true fruit of an apple tree – which is not an apple, but another apple tree. Why do you think he made that distinction?
5. Read Matthew 7:13–21. Why do you think the gate is so small and the path so narrow?
6. Matthew and John both talk about bearing fruit. What do you think the consequences are for not bearing fruit (“much fruit,” according to John 15:8) ... for the Kingdom of God? For the local church? For an individual?
7. According to John 15:16, Jesus chose you for a purpose. To what purpose did Jesus choose you? What will you do about that this week?

This Week's Challenge: Continue to pray for the lost relative, friend, co-worker, acquaintance that you began praying for last week. Ask God to enlighten their heart and help them to see. But this week add a prayer that they'd be open to an invitation. Then, by mid-week: (1) If the person you're praying for is local, invite them to your home for breakfast, lunch, or dinner and watch the worship service together. Or invite them to brunch on Sunday morning to join you for the Worship Watch Party. Remind them it's just you and them in your home ... no pressure to go to church. (2) If they're *not* local, invite them to join you for the Worship Watch Party at <https://RaytownCC.org/watch-party>.

Next Week: We'll be looking at a seldom examined topic – at least when it comes to sermons. What if Jesus really meant what he said about the demonic? Is it possible that some of our struggles come from forces outside of ourselves? And if so, what can we do about that?