

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 16)

Radical discipleship begins with radical converts. Not every disciple referred to in the New testament was a disciple of Jesus. A disciple is a learner. Jesus had disciples; John had disciples; the Pharisees had disciples; and the Pharisees claimed to be Moses' disciples. The various people in the Gospels referred to as disciples of Jesus were not all alike. Some of them were not saved. When certain "disciples" disliked Jesus' teaching about drinking His blood and eating His flesh, "many of his disciples went back and walked with Him no more" (John 6:66). They were curious disciples who chased phenomenon. They liked His miracles and loathed His message. Others were concerned disciples. They appreciated what Jesus said, but they put off commitment. They followed Jesus waiting to learn more. They were like people Paul described as "ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (II Timothy 3:7). Then there were committed disciples. These were men and women who followed Jesus closely. The apostles were apart of that group. Jesus selected them to be world-wide disciple-makers. They were willing to take risks most people were unwilling to take. They became the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20). They were the radicals.