

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 8)

Since a disciple is a learner, then what one learns should be observable in his obedience. Jesus always introduced discipleship with the word "if." "If" places a condition on something. Jesus placed conditions on discipleship. There are no conditions on salvation. It is received by faith alone. Jesus placed many conditions on discipleship. If a person wanted to be a learner of Jesus, he had to prove it by meeting Jesus' requirements. A disciple who meets no conditions is no disciple at all. Many seekers had second thoughts when they didn't agree with Jesus or didn't have the desire to meet Jesus' demands. The person who had to know ahead of time where he was going to sleep each night stayed home. He wasn't fond of inconvenience. One person wanted to wait until his father died so he could bury him. His father was number one. Jesus was somewhere down the line. Others would not put Jesus ahead of their family. For most, their own lives came first. There weren't many willing to deny themselves. Giving up everything for Jesus was too risky for most. And taking up a cross is a whole other matter. Oswald Chambers discusses the disciple's cross: "As disciples we have not to serve God in our own way, not to tell him what we are going to do for him... 'If you would be my disciple,' says Jesus, 'give up your right to yourself to me, and take up your cross daily.' No man can carry the cross of God. The cross of God is the redemption of the world. The cross we have to carry is that we have deliberately given up the right to ourselves to Jesus Christ, and we steadily refuse to be appealed to on any other line than he was appealed to on when he was here."