
Series: Disciples Are Made, Not Born
Message: "Five Marks of a Real Disciple!"

Luke 14:25-35

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:
²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³ In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. ³⁴ Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵ It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

1. A FAMILY: A Real Disciple Loves Jesus More Than Any Thing In The World

- To be a real disciple, you must love Jesus more than you love anyone else, even family members.
- If you truly follow the Lord, you won't have to look for people to ridicule you and oppose you, they will find you, and they may be your family members.

"All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. . . anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:22, 37)

- When God calls you, you have to make some difficult decisions, and sometimes your family will not jump up and down and rejoice over your choices.

2. A CROSS: A Real Disciple Lives Like A Dead Person

- A real disciple is someone who carries his own cross.
- The true message of the cross is death.
- If we are truly "dead in Christ," we should start acting like dead people.

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..." (Galatians 2:20)

"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:24)

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14)

- You won't be truly liberated until you understand what it is to be crucified with Christ.

3. A TOWER: A Real Disciple Considers The Value Of A Strong Finish

- It's not our resources that are necessary, God provides all we need.
"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." (Philippians 1:6)

- A good finish as a disciple is the key.
- There is great value in finishing what you start!
- It doesn't matter how well you start if you fail to finish.
- A real disciple finishes strong.

4. A WAR: A Real Disciple Understands Who To Surrender To

- Because we can never win against God, we must surrender to Him.
- It takes humility today to surrender to Jesus.
- You cannot be a disciple unless you are willing to give up control of your life to Jesus.

5. SALT: A Real Disciple Stays Pure To Preserve Goodness

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?" (Matthew 5:13)

As Salt:

- We must come in contact with our corrupting culture to slow down the process of decay.
- Our job is to preserve the goodness that still exists in our culture.
- We must be the ones who speak up when a sexually oriented business applies for a license.
- We must be the ones who stand up and say taking "under God" out of the pledge of allegiance is not acceptable.
- We must be the ones who show up and say in love that abortion is murder and homosexual behavior is perversion.
- If we don't speak out against moral evil, we've lost our saltiness.
- Pure salt never loses its saltiness.