

NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 29 No. 21

LORD'S DAY 25 MAY 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 36:5-9

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 36 – *"High in the Heavens, Eternal God"*

Opening Prayer

Jonathan Kim

Responsive Reading

Psalm 3

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 3:1-8

(to the tune of Beatitude, RHC 63)

Scriptural Text

Matthew 15:21-28

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Carl Vermeulen

Sermon Message

Jesus Christ uses a Gentile's great faith to teach God's people how to receive the Living Bread.

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 379 – *"O for a Faith That Will Not Shrink"*

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Rev Carl Vermeulen

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

** Congregation Stands*

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 59

Q: Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

A: From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the CHRISTIAN Sabbath.

Comments:

The Patriarchal and Jewish Sabbath was held on the Saturday, because that was the day on which God rested from Creation. The Christian Sabbath is held on the Sunday, because that is the day on which our Saviour arose from the grave. The change was made in accordance with the practice of the Apostles and the early Church.

Scriptural Reference:

Genesis 2:3, Acts 20:7, Revelation 1:10

Dear brethren, this week, we will continue publishing articles covering the Discipleship series written by Rev Jack Sin, Pastor of Sovereign Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church in Singapore. The second article is entitled "The Cost of Discipleship – "Counting the Cost"".

The Cost of Discipleship – **"Counting the Cost"**

What is the cost of discipleship? Jesus said, *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth ambassadors, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."* (Luke 14:28-33). For Jesus says that, *"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matt 16:25-26).

The Apostle Paul understood the cost of discipleship! He was a man who enjoyed great prominence among the Jewish elite but forsook all for the love of Christ! Paul declared, *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"* (Phil 3:7-9).

The cost of discipleship requires us to give up our old selves in order to embrace Christ and become the person Christ has created us to be. We are told by Paul, *therefore "put off the old man with his deeds"* (Col 3:9-10), for *"if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (2 Cor 5:17).

Paul says, *"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God"* (1 Cor 2:14), rather, *"the carnal mind is enmity against God"* (Rom 8:7). But even though *"we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature children of wrath"* (Eph 2:3), *"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight:"* (Col 1:21-22). Thus, having been *"reconciled to God by the death of his Son"* (Rom 5:10), you have received *"exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"* (2Pet 1:4).

Therefore, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world"* (1 John 2:15-16). *"Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"* (Jas 4:4). *"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."* (John 12:25-26).

The cost of discipleship is totally reasonable in light of the gift we have been given! We were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from our fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19). Simply put, you were *"bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* (1 Corinthians 6:20). Remember that *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."* (Titus 2:11-14).

There are no shallow, uncommitted believers. And yet in our society here, we have developed this incredible theology that says you can be a Christian and not be committed to Christ. In fact, you cannot be a superficial Christian and a disciple. There is no question in the New Testament about Jesus assigning a tremendous cost to discipleship (Luke 9:23). False Christianity does not really have any particular cost at all.

All of the calls of Jesus to discipleship, are they something more than salvation? You see, the word *"disciple"* is so much a part of our Christian faith that it hardly has any meaning outside of Christianity. It is used 262 times in the New Testament. The word is *mathetes*, the basic root meaning is to be a learner, but it has much more content than that. The lexicons tell us that it means *"one who shares a close and intimate relationship with a person. The disciple is one who at Jesus' call follows after Him. He must observe the will of God and even binding upon himself unreservedly to the person of Jesus, go as far as death and the gift of his life out of love"*.

Discipleship is more than just being a learner or being an intimate follower. It is having an intimate relationship with God. Jesus proclaimed a message of total discipleship. The call that Jesus gave was a call to follow Him, a call to submission, a call to obedience. It was never a plea to make some kind of momentary decision to acquire forgiveness and peace and heaven and then go on living anyway you wanted. The invitations of Jesus to the lost were always direct calls to a costly commitment.

In Matthew 13, a man found a treasure, sold all he had and bought it. A man found a pearl, sold all he had and bought it. Now that says that when a man comes across the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, he gives up all he has. He turns his back on all of worldly life to embrace Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Christ told these parables to the disciples to unveil the mysteries of the Kingdom, not to explain the atonement from God's viewpoint. But that is the extent to which the interpreter will go when he wants to eliminate a gospel that demands that a person give up everything to receive Christ.

There is a striking parallel in Mark 10:21. This is what it says, Jesus looked at the rich young ruler, *"and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven"*. If we want eternal life, we are to give up all you have and take the treasure and follow Christ.

That is not the only strong call of Jesus to discipleship. In Matthew 10, very familiar to us and we will go back to it later on, Matthew 10:32-39, that *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."* A strong call to total commitment in Christ for all believers.

In Luke's gospel and chapter 14, we hear the echo of the same level of commitment, verse 25, *"there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them"*, He was talking to the multitudes, *"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."* (Luke 14:26-27).

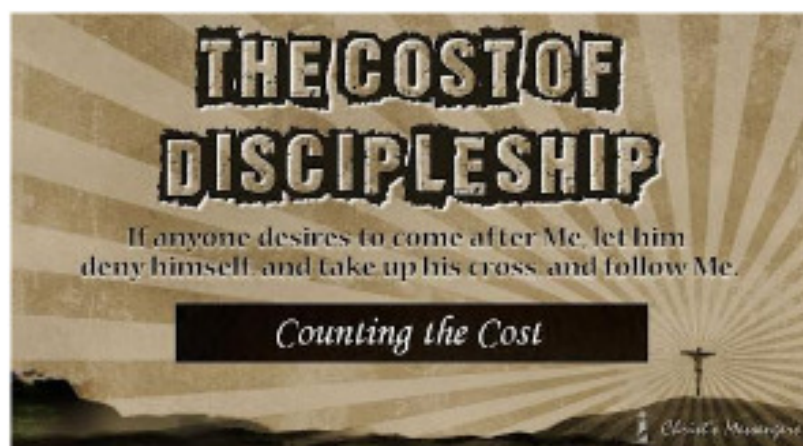
So a disciple is God honouring Christian. They have to be already committed born again believers. Then why does He give this message to the multitude? In John 8:31, Jesus said, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed"*. John 15:8, Jesus says, *"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."* And every one of those contexts, Matthew 13, Matthew 10, Luke 14, John 8, John 15, are all contexts in which Jesus is calling men to salvation and still there are many who deny that there is any such call involved in salvation. They say, "Just believe and take the gift....just believe and take the gift."

But strangely today, one is told it is enough for someone to simply believe, receive the gift (i.e. Alpha Course) without repenting, without confessing Christ as Lord, without surrendering their life to Him. There is nothing farther from the truth.

There is no dichotomy between a believer and a disciple. This kind of thinking is false and should be corrected. Christ came to seek and save the lost, that He was not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. **We are totally changed through the ministry of our Lord who calls men who live in sin, who denying the headship of Christ, to shape up. Is that the ministry of Jesus to you in your life too?**

Every Christian is a disciple; every Christian is a follower of Christ. Some of us are following Christ faithfully, and every true believer has committed himself or herself to follow Jesus Christ, i.e. a follower of Jesus is a real committed Christian. You could not follow along without having a changed heart and say, "Lord, Lord," and He would say, "I never knew you." Like John 6:66, "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with him." Like those who wanted to follow Jesus in Matthew chapter 8, but they certainly were not willing to make whatever commitment had to be made. They were the ones of whom we read earlier who said, "Let me go do this and let me go do that, and let me go do the other thing." And He said, "You are not worthy to be My disciple." Consider also Lk 9:56-62.

There are no believers who are not disciples. It simply means that we have entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ in which we follow Him. We do not follow perfectly and please, we do not follow out of our own will and our own flesh, we follow because God in His sovereign grace transformed us into followers. The truth is that evangelism itself is to make disciples. Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and ..." what? ... make disciples. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. How do you make a disciple? Share the gospel and then "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you". That is responsible evangelism. **Publicly name the name of Jesus Christ and be publicly baptized as a profession of their faith and then set about to live a life of obedience, that is making disciples in local churches. We are called to make disciples not just ordinary converts.**



WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begin with the **Worship Service** at **11.00 am** followed by a **Bible Study & Children's Sunday School** at **1:30pm**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, we extend a warm welcome to you this Lord's Day. We hope that you have a blessed time worshipping with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, please join our Worship Service and Bible Study on our live-stream via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewLifeBPCLondon>

We thank God for providing Rev Carl Vermeulen to minister to us this Lord's Day. Rev Vermeulen will be ministering to us till early June.

Tithes & Offerings – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

After-Service Fellowship – Join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service. Please bring your own lunch as only drinks will be provided.

Afternoon Bible Study – Rev Vermeulen will deliver today's study covering the fourth and fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer.

Children's Sunday School – held after the After-Service Fellowship at 1:30pm.

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour."

Matthew 15:28

Last Week

"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."

1 Samuel 17:45

Morning Service sermon and Afternoon Bible Study:

Dear brethren,

Morning Sermon:

Rev Vermeulen will be preaching the sermon entitled "Jesus Christ uses a Gentile's great faith to teach God's people how to receive the Living Bread" taken from Matthew 15:21-28 and will be covering the following points:

1. Listen to His instruction about faith.
2. Be warned about complacency.
3. Take comfort in His response to faith.

Afternoon Bible Study:

Rev Vermeulen will be continuing his teaching on the Lord's Prayer. Today, he will cover the fourth and fifth petition: Give us this day, our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.