

A True Disciple

Are you a true disciple or are you a Christian?

Jesus isn't asking us to be Christians is asking us to be disciples.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

Christian means Christ follower.

This last year of covid has shaken so many Christians to the point they have walked away from their faith in God.

We can read about this in the New Testament.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

Hebrews 12:25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn

away from Him who speaks from heaven,
26 whose voice then shook the earth; but
now He has promised, saying, “Yet once
more I shake not only the earth, but also
heaven.” 27 Now this, “Yet once more,”
indicates the removal of those things that
are being shaken, as of things that are
made, that the things which cannot be
shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we
are receiving a kingdom which cannot be
shaken, let us have grace, by which we
may serve God acceptably with reverence
and godly fear.

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Luke 21:25 “And there will be signs in the
sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on
the earth distress of nations, with
perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;
26 “men’s hearts failing them from fear and
the expectation of those things which are
coming on the earth, for the powers of the

heavens will be shaken. 27 “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

The earth is full of trouble.

Trouble is a magnifier.

Trouble reveals the stability of our lives or trouble will reveal the instability your life.

Mark 4:1 And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.

2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:

3 “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

4 “And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.

5 “Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.

6 “But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

7 “And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

8 “But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and

produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

It grew and looked fine but it had no depth.

13 And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 “The sower sows the word. 15 “And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16 “These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 “and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.

Tribulation or persecution is another way of saying trouble.

Trouble has caused many people to fall away.

The word trouble in the Greek here means stress, pressure and seasons of testing.

This is not the time to be a Christian it's time to be a true disciple of Christ.

Cultural Christianity is what most people have adopted.

God never called us Christians He calls us sons and daughters.

To be a disciple is a person who is laid down their life to follow Jesus.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 **“Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Jesus never said go into the earth and make Christians.

Conversion is an event but discipleship is a lifelong process.

Salvation is a free gift but discipleship will cost you everything.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after

Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Everything in your life is going to change when you become a true disciple.

John 13:35 “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Christianity really doesn't work until you deny yourself.

The real Christian life is when you lay down your version of your life.

5 Marks Of A Disciple

1. Disciples are time tested they are in it for the long-haul.

2. Disciples are fully committed to Jesus in his church.

3. Disciples live according to God's Word.

4. Disciples make significant sacrifices and costly decisions to follow Jesus.

5. Disciples leave a legacy.