

Discipleship and the Cross

Matthew 16:21-38

Context: This lesson follows immediately after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus followed up the confession of Peter with his teaching to the disciples that the Messiah's purpose was to die. This did not coincide with the well-established tenets of the Jewish faith and their biblical interpretation. Every previous Messiah (David, Josiah, Hezekiah) had been a military leader and political ruler. This Messiah, however, did not come to establish a kingdom and overthrow oppression through political force or through weapons of war. This Messiah came with only one weapon in his arsenal: love. Those who would follow this Messiah must not wield any other weapon.

A. Discipleship is connected to the _____

Pat Robertson—*"If there were no God, I would still live the Christian life, because it is a good and moral life"*

1. Are you _____?!
 - a. If there is no God, I am going to be really ticked off when I get to heaven.
 - b. God and I are gonna have it out, were it not for one problem... there would be no God.
2. The path of the disciple is marked with a cross
 - a. ...not physical _____
 - b. ...the cross is a _____, to take up a difficult challenge for the cause of Christ.

3. Those who would live a Christian life even if there were no Christ, have not chosen a _____ cross to carry.

- B. And yet... for disciples, the cross is no _____
1. The Christian life is not about my sacrifice, but about _____ for me.
 2. Because of what Jesus has done, I can give my life in a _____ fashion
 3. Pastor Dave's Pity Parties:
 - a. I have pity parties...
 - ...thinking no-one is giving like me
 - ...no-one sacrifices enough
 - ...no-one else is doing what I'm doing.
 - b. It is easy to be _____
 - c. Resentment comes from my _____ the gift of Christ given to me

- C. For disciples, the cross is not a _____ right
1. Everything I have done _____ in comparison to what has been given to me.
 2. If you want to follow Christ...
 - ...you will need to pick up a cross
 - ...it will be a burden
 - ...but, it will be nothing in comparison to the burden carried on your behalf.