

Introduction: *Only In America*

Our time today will focus on three aspects of discipleship:

- I. The Call of Discipleship
- II. The Cost of Discipleship
- III. The Results of Discipleship

Text: [Matthew 28: 1-6](#) (NIV) "... At dawn on the first day ...

See selection from Max Lucado's, [He Still Moves Stones](#)

I. The Call of Discipleship

Think of all of the thousands who followed Jesus during his three year ministry. They came from long distances stayed for days listening watching trying to grasp the gift that God had sent them. The kingdom of God had come to Earth ... to them.

Why did they come? They came to receive from Jesus some for the food some for the amazing miracles some for the life liberating experience of his teaching his words his eyes. Never had a man spoken like this man.

But now we see two women making their way to the tomb. The thousands of followers, disciples, even his closest companions, the 12 disciples are nowhere to be found.

Only Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus are on their way to embalm the body of Jesus.

These women are the essence of discipleship. What do they have to gain? Nothing. They have no hope; it is not because of their faith. This is pure devotion. They have come to give not receive for Jesus. This is the pure love.

This is the call of discipleship ... devotion to God when there is no personal gain. We search for the qualities of honesty and integrity in our leaders and are quick to publicize their behavior as scandalous when they use their office for personal gain, but, what about our own lives? How often have your actions been completely unselfish?

II. The Cost of Discipleship

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If you read the Bible much at all, you must have shaken your head a few times when you see the very guys that lived with and daily witnessed Jesus' awesome display yet just don't seem to get it!

It amazes me to think what they saw and heard daily and yet seemed to fail miserably to their calling. The 12 disciples.

Yet I can not find fault for I have often repeated the same mistake.

Read Matthew 15: 29

These guys witnessed: miracles ... the blind, deaf, lame, mute, paralyzed, were healed. Leprosy cleansed, epilepsy, demonic possession, conquered by the touch or command of Jesus

They watched him feed 4 thousand men with seven cup cakes and 2 sardines.

Then for good measure he did it again with 5 thousand.

Breath taking wisdom

Even resurrection... 3 times ending with the death of a friend who had been buried three days.

But when they find themselves in a storm, a situation that was out of their control they panicked.

Read Matthew 8: 23-27

It is during the storms of life, of personal crisis, that our faith and commitment is tested!

These are the moments when we move forward or backward in our relationship with God.

The ship was taking on water and seemed to be about to go down in this sudden and mysterious storm. That's the way it is for us too isn't it? We are caught unprepared, suddenly, it just doesn't seem to make sense to us.

If we are in a growing relationship with Jesus we are going to face those moments of crisis.

God allows us to face those scary unexplainable situations of life where we are pushed to the limit to the end of our human understanding to the moment when there is nothing left but a choice.

We will choose to trust God ***or*** we will react as the disciples did in fear, anger and confusion, even though Jesus is in the boat with them.

This is the cost of discipleship the cost of commitment that is not based on what we get but what we are willing to give to God.

God wants us to grow, He wants us to become just like Jesus and the testing of our faith our relationship with him is the only way to find out the intentions and motives of our heart.

Read Matthew 16: 24-26 (NLT) If any of you wants to be my followers...

What are the results of a committed life of discipleship?

Discipleship is about what we do for God and others.

Discipleship is a process of surrender that brings freedom... it is peace and freedom knowing that we are no longer alone.

Read Daily Bread "Give Him Your Burden" April 25

Read Matthew 11:28 Come Unto Me all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you ..." (discipleship) follow me be my discipleship

Or you may be the frightened Peter waiting to become the Lion of God who will bring 3,000 to new life in Christ from one anointed Holy Spirit filled message.

In the book of Acts we see the same disciples who had run for cover when Jesus was taken, to those who turned the world upside down for God.

If your life as a Christian has been disappointing, there is only one place to look, your heart and level of commitment to God.

John 4:23 Jesus words to the woman at the well... "But the hour comes and now is when true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father is seeking such to worship him."

If your heart is telling that something is not quite right in your relationship with God it time to listen , reflect and obey.

The Father is seeking ... *God is seeking* hearts that want to worship him with their lives!

If you are struggling under pressure that has you upset and confused ... step back and allow God to speak to you he is always in the boat with you. Even when it seems that he is asleep and doesn't care. He does.

If you have never heard anything like this before but your heart is telling you that you need more of God ... take the first step toward God he is waiting to meet you and change your life.