

Let's Discuss...Jesus

PART 4_How Do We Follow Jesus?



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Scriptures mentioned:

*And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me, and I will make
you become fishers of men."
Mark 1:17 ESV*

*Imitate me as I imitate
Christ.
1 Corinthians 11:1 GW*

*From that time Jesus began
to preach, saying, "Repent,
for the kingdom of heaven is
at hand."
Matthew 4:17 ESV*

*I have been crucified with
Christ. It is no longer I who
live, but Christ who lives in
me. And the life I now live in
the flesh I live by faith in the
Son of God, who loved me
and gave Himself for me.
Galatians 2:20 ESV*

*Then Jesus said to His
disciples, "Whoever wants
to be my disciple must deny
themselves and take up their
cross and follow me..."
Matthew 16:24 NIV*

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Summary

In this video we talk about what it means to follow Jesus. NJ mentions how it requires us to realise our need for a Saviour, and Renaud gives an analogy to express how we as humans, with such limited perspective, can choose to follow a leader who sees the whole picture. For every one of us it's an ongoing journey, and some days we do better at emulating Christ than on other days.

Definitions

disciple: a follower and student of Jesus

epistle: a letter. 21/27 New Testament books were letters written from Paul or other early disciples of Jesus to individuals or communities of believers.

χάρις (charis)

grace: unmerited (or undeserved) favour and good will (or benefit) which brings joy and delight. God gives grace freely and liberally to all who choose to receive it.

humility: the quality of having a modest view of oneself and not esteeming oneself as greater or more important than anyone else; a lack of pride

μετανοεῶ (metanoēō)

repent: to change one's mind and actions, usually after experiencing deep remorse for sin; to turn away from sin and toward God

Let's Discuss...

- Andrea talks about the realisation of what grace really is, and how this compelled her to consider, "What was my response to it?" Here is the quote she found impactful:

"Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows Him."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, **The Cost of Discipleship**

Have you ever experienced, read, or heard something that gave you a greater understanding of the true meaning of grace? What sort of response does a deeper understanding of grace (and what it costs) evoke within you?

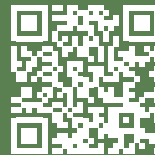
- Andrea goes on to say, "I'm still figuring out what bearing my cross means." HA! Same, Andrea...us too.

Whoever does not carry his own cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow after Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] cannot be My disciple.

Luke 14:27 AMP

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For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "bear your cross"? What do you think it looks like to live this way in everyday modern life?

- Renaud says, "When I think I'm starting to understand everything, I'll pray, Lord humble me...cuz I'm definitely about to walk off an edge here". As followers of Jesus, what do you think are the barriers that keep us from walking in humility?
- Is there any difference between a "Christian" and a "disciple of Jesus"? Are all Christians disciples? What are the similarities and differences between discipleship in our day and age versus thousands of years ago?
- The journey of learning to be like Him never stops. Ian shares how in everything he does, he wants to be like Jesus and act like Jesus would act in that situation. Some days he feels like he comes up short, and other days he does better. Read Psalm 145:8-9 (see below). Do you think God's posture toward us is different depending on our estimation of how the day went? How do you handle the days when you feel like you've come up short? What do you think God would say to you on those days?

Let's Pray...

"Following Jesus is not a skill we acquire. Following Jesus is not a strategy we work out. It is obedience – 'my Lord.' It is worship – 'my God.' No religious skills that you and I acquire will ever produce resurrection. No spiritual strategies that we work on will ever produce resurrection. Following Jesus doesn't get us where we want to go; it gets us where Jesus wants us to go".

Eugene Peterson

*The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.*

The Lord is good to all;

He has compassion on all He has made.

Psalm 145:8-9 NIV

- As we consider what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus and bear our cross daily, let us not lose sight of the fact that it isn't our good works that save us, but His unending grace and love towards us. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit would transform us not through our own striving, but through an increasingly heartfelt appreciation for these immutable (unchanging) aspects of His character and response toward us.
- Spend a few moments in silence meditating on Psalm 145:8-9, slowly going through it phrase by phrase. After some time, reflect on how this meditation causes you to want to live out your faith.

Let's Go Deeper...

- **The Cost of Discipleship** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer [book]
- **Regret vs. Repentance** by Ascension Presents [video]
- **On Living Well** by Eugene Peterson [book]
- **Grace - God's Consistent Posture Towards Humanity** by BibleProject [video]
- **The Uniquely Biblical View of Grace** by BibleProject [podcast]
- **How to Find God's Wisdom • Sermon on the Mount (Episode 3)** by BibleProject [video]
- **Following Christ** by Tim Keller [podcast]

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