

DISCIPLESHIP

Introduction:

- To be a disciple of Jesus means to follow Jesus—His teachings and His way of life (1 John 2:5-6)
- It is important that we look at the scriptures and discover the kind of heart and lifestyle that is needed to follow Christ

John 14:5-6

- Jesus makes the bold claim that He is the only source of finding your way to God
- Jesus makes the bold claim that He is the only source of truth
- Jesus makes the bold claim that He is the only source of true life
- Since this is true, what kind of heart should a follower of Christ strive to have?

1. A HEART THAT LOVES (Mark 12:28-32)

- To love God with all our hearts is of greatest importance
- *Question:* Why should we love God with all our heart?
 1. Because He created us
 2. Because He continually loves us
 3. Because He cared enough to die for us
- Bridge story
- Like Jesus, we are also called to love others with a deep passion and commitment

2. A HEART THAT EMBRACES SELF DENIAL (Luke 9:23-26, 57)

- We must deny ourselves every day
- *Question:* What does it mean to deny ourselves?
- We must carry our cross
- *Question:* What does it mean to carry our cross?
- Many would like to claim to follow Jesus, but he tells us that the road is not one of comfort or selfishness (Luke 9:57)

3. A HEART THAT STAYS AT REST (Matthew 11:28-30)

- While the path to follow Jesus may seem difficult at times, He promises us rest from things such as anxiety, worry and hopelessness
- The yoke of Jesus is a blessing to wear—it involves learning His way of life
- *Question:* What are some of the burdens you carry right now that being a disciple of Jesus can ease or remove?

4. A HEART THAT CARES FOR THE LOST (Matt 28:18-20)

- God's plan to save the world is for disciples to go and make other disciples
- This is our mission as a church, and as individual disciples
- We must continue to teach disciples and be willing to be taught by other disciples

5. A HEART THAT SURRENDERS EVERYTHING TO GOD (Luke 14:25-33)

- Our relationship with God needs to have top priority above all other relationships
- We must count the cost and understand that the Lord does not want "half-built" disciples
- We are called to surrender everything, regardless of the difficulty

- *Question:* What things do you think are hardest to totally surrender to God?

Conclusion:

- The heart of a true Christian is one that:
 1. Loves God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength
 2. Loves people with a deep commitment
 3. Denies self every day
 4. Is filled with peace and contentment
 5. Is actively involved in teaching the lost
 6. Surrenders their whole life to Christ
- *Question:* When you look at your life, would you say you have had the kind of heart that is indicative of a true follower of Christ? What needs to change in your life to get you to that point?