

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

a call to reality



Jesus had several concentric circles of people that believed in him. He had tens of thousands of followers; many of these were the ones that he healed mentally and physically. Their miracle of healing made them a testimony to their family and their surroundings; of these Jesus said he that is not against is for me. (Luke 9:50)

Then there's the next circle of the seventy disciples. For these he had stricter guide lines and put the standard higher by saying 'he that does not forsake all that he has, cannot be my disciple.' - (Luke 14 :33). He also put them to the test with the 'eating his flesh and drinking his blood' sermon, which was too hard for them and they left him. (John 6:60) The Lord will more than once test our loyalty and dedication to see if our heart is still undivided. Then we have the apostle circle: these are the ones that you cannot get rid of. Jesus chose these after spending the whole night in prayer and communion with the Father. (Luke 6:12-16) Why did the Father point out these twelve? That is because the Father knows our hearts and seeks those people who worship him in spirit and in truth.' (John 4:23,24) Apostles are the ones who deep down in their heart want to live the truth no matter the cost. We maybe in the depths of hell, but if we crave the truth with all our heart then there is hope for us.

Jesus said, 'for this cause was I born and came into the world to be a witness of the truth and he who wants the truth will listen to me.' (John 18:37) These found the Truth and stuck it out. Also Judas was chosen and although he followed Jesus three years, it is good to know why he betrayed Jesus and see how we'd have done, were we in Judas' shoes? Then there is the closest inner circle of Peter, James and John. These came along when he raised Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:51), went with him up the mount of transfiguration (Mat.17:1), and were near to him in the garden of Getsemany (Mark 14:33). Why them?



Peter asked questions, and also stuck his foot in his mouth, but was crazy enough to step out on the water. When Jesus said, 'Come' he came! (Mt.14:29) John had no fear; he just loved the Lord, even rested his head on Jesus' bosom during the last supper. (John 13:23) James and John were brothers and were called 'the sons of thunder' (Mark 3:17). So, John and James must have been trusting powerhouses.

The Young Apostles

Jesus' apostles were mostly below the age of 20 or 21. The Jews started paying temple tax at the age of twenty, while Roman tribute money was for every adult male, so either 20 or 21. Matthew records, 'they that received tribute money asked Peter, Does your master not pay tribute?' - Obviously, Jesus was older than 21 and Peter must have still looked under 21 as they only asked about Jesus not paying. But Jesus told Peter, 'Give unto them for me and you.' Mat 17:24-27. From this we see that the rest of Jesus' disciples were in their middle or late teens. We know that teens are not too worried about Sabbath days and they eat with unwashed hands. Jesus even called them 'paidia', Greek for children or lads - (John 21:5). In the same chapter (John 21) he asks Simon Peter, 'Do you love me more than these?'



Here Jesus was pointing at the huge catch of 153 big fishes. Fishing was Peter's life that he loved. Was he willing to leave the fishing

behind to feed the young believers - Jesus' lambs? In order to drive the point home, Jesus asks him three times, 'Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me... then feed my sheep.' Peter tries to turn the spotlight away from his heart and asks, 'But what about him?' pointing at John. Jesus responds with, 'What is that to you? You need to follow me.'

True discipleship is more than standing up once in a meeting with, 'I take Jesus'. Jesus gave his all in the hope that some of us would give their all, in return. He was undivided, how undivided are we and willing to surrender our personal plans and will to the Lord?

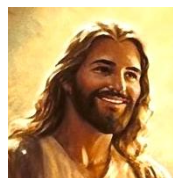
Satan will pull out all stops before you surrender your life and he might even give you that promotion. He'll tell you, 'You won't be enjoying life anymore, you'll be a brainwashed zombie; no longer a free thinker, but a pious, self-righteous, nice "Christian". Jesus called Satan the father of lies and he is so good at it that he had me hoodwinked for some 20 years. So, what changed my mind, me, a market-boy with money, who loved dancing; a girlfriend on the right arm and a drink in the left hand. No Bible for me!

What changed?

I had this nagging feeling that there has to be more to life than making money; there has to be true love and real freedom. I felt like a bird in a golden cage. I always somewhat respected Jesus, but stayed away from the Bible as I believed the lies about people going crazy while reading it. There was an older gentleman who I respected very much and he told me that I should read the Bible. After much back-and-forth deliberation, I took it off the shelf and started reading it. How could I have been so deceived by people that refused to read it themselves? Why were they so scared of it?

Was it their intellectual pride? Did they not want to know why are we here on earth? Here's your [Bible with a search-bar](#) to install on your PC or laptop.

Let's take a look at Jesus, not the icons and pictures where he looks more dead than alive.



When we read his true life story in [Matthew](#), [Mark](#), [Luke](#) & [John](#), then we see a person who loved life to the full. His first miracle is 600 litres of the very best wine, he healed

people, gave the demon haunted back their sanity, singlehandedly threw the money-grabbers out of the temple, stood his ground against the Religious Rulers and told them, 'he that's not for me is against me.' (Mat.12:30) Yet, we have made him the alleged leader of Christianity, which is rapidly becoming a politically correct, QUIET FAITH religion.

It says the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. These were disciples that could not stop talking about Jesus and got kicked out of Jerusalem, because they turned the city upside down. (Acts 17:6)

WELL, WHAT WENT WRONG?

The Bible went from our heart, to under our arm. Jesus tells us about the Sower of seeds, some fell by the wayside and his word never took root. Some fell on stony ground; the word took root, but they gave up because of opposition. The next one is the dangerous one. We grow in the Lord, but then the thistles start shooting up as the cares of this world and the [deceitfulness of riches](#) stifle our spiritual life. The word is choked out as we are too busy in the race and we're becoming unfruitful. We are still "good Christians", however, being GOOD is the enemy of the BEST that we can be for him.

Radical uncompromising Jesus cast out them that sold and bought in the temple;' (Mark 11:15). Paul said, "you are the temple of God." (1Cor.3:16,17) If I am the Temple of God, then I face this question, 'Will I invite Jesus to go through my temple and heart and throw out all the money and business'?

What do I do? Give him permission? YES or NO?



"Yes, Jesus, please come in and clean out my heart, so my heart can be a house of prayer and I can be a true disciple of you."

The fourth one is the good ground. "Lord, it is my prayer that my heart will be good ground and fertile soil where the seeds of your word grow and bear fruit." This yearning is not only for me, but you, my friend, as well.



When did I start fulltime service?

When I [started out](#), I was scared, but I wanted to put God to the test to see if he would supply for me as he did for the early disciples, so I left the family business. I made new friends, [memorized scripture](#), went out to talk to people about Jesus. I didn't have the funds that I used to have, but I learned to [give and share](#) and he always supplied food to eat.

When I visited my sister, she asked me, "Are you brainwashed?" She right away said, "Nobody could possibly brainwash you; you are way too stubborn." I think it is good to be stubborn enough to stick to what you promised the Lord.

I am now (19-9-'25) 76 and have been serving the Lord for 54 years, 8 months and 21 days. I don't regret a single day of it, as they keep getting better. The Lord even told me to open schools for the less privileged.

Do I not have regrets? Oh yes, I regret my lack of love and harsh words, but these were my mistakes and had nothing to do with the Lord, because he tried to patiently help and teach me his ways of love, compassion, apologizing and getting back up.

Give up, or what do I do?

I remember when I wondered if I should continue on my path of service. The ones we lived with had left to their home country. Suddenly I was alone with my wife and four young children, a house and bills.

"Lord what do I do? Paul made tents, should I go back to the family business... Then they'll think that I failed and that I made a big mistake by serving you.

Please [tell me what you think](#) that I need to do?"

'What are you, in your heart of hearts, Johan?'

"I am a missionary, Lord, for you."

'Do you believe that and stand by it?'

"Yes, my Lord, that is my calling, my life and joy."

'Then you work for me and follow my guidance and I will pay the bills. There are many people that want a job for money, but so little few want to serve me. Stick with me and I will take care of you and yours.' "Thank you, that settles it then?" - 'Yes, you'll see!'

If you feel that tug in your heart to be a disciple...

I do not mean a Christian that sings once a week in church and goes to an annual music festival. No, if you are someone that wants to obey the call of forsaking all and serve fulltime, heart, soul, mind, spirit and body, then put God to the test and test your own tenacity to see what you are made of and if you have got the guts to believe his promises.

If you do then you will never have to fear him, but will only and only love him. He will give [tests](#), but if you hold on and stagger not at the promises of God through unbelieve (Rom.4:20), then you will find that



Jesus is the most doting, loving husband. If you want a kind, providing partner, a true soul-mate, believe me he will satisfy beyond your wildest dreams and give you life beyond measure, with joy unspeakable.

You'll no longer be a "Christian", but an honoured **son and daughter of God**. If the [Lord is calling](#) you to be a disciple, then please contact me and let's see how the Lord will help us to take this further.

Communication is confidential.

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