

THE CHURCH – A SCHOOL

Lesson 13

Introduction: We are in the process of sharing with you 7 Pictures/Values that the Lord showed me to describe His church. Simply put, these are the things that are important to God, and therefore should be important to us! Unfortunately, these pictures also show just how short the American church has fallen of God's plan and ideal; and today's picture/value in particular shows in glaring detail how many in the church have accepted a counterfeit in place of the genuine! MAY IT NOT BE SAID OF US!

1. PICTURE / VALUE #1: A RESTORED CHURCH ✓
2. PICTURE / VALUE #2: THE CHURCH – A HOSPITAL ✓
3. PICTURE / VALUE #3: THE CHURCH – A SCHOOL
4. PICTURE / VALUE #4: THE CHURCH – A FAMILY
5. PICTURE / VALUE #5: THE CHURCH – WORSHIPERS
6. PICTURE / VALUE #6: THE CHURCH – SERVANTS
7. PICTURE / VALUE #7: THE CHURCH – AN ADVANCING ARMY

***IN THIS CLASS WE WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING POINTS...**

- THE *CALL* TO DISCIPLESHIP
- THE *CHARACTERISTICS* OF DISCIPLESHIP
- THE *COST* OF DISCIPLESHIP

***MT 28:19 – “THEREFORE, GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS...”**

1. THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Mt 28:18-20 – “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always** to the very end of the age.’”*

- A. IT'S THE GREAT COMMISSION, NOT THE GREAT SUGGESTION**
- B. COMMANDED TO MAKE DISCIPLES, NOT SIMPLY DECISIONS**
- C. DISCIPLES ARE MADE, NOT BORN**
- D. WE MAKE DISCIPLES UNTO JESUS, NOT UNTO US**

2. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF DISCIPLESHIP

A. A DISCIPLE CONTINUES

Col 2:6-7 – “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him...”*

John 8:31(Message Bible) – “If you **stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure...”*

1 John 2:28 – “And now, dear children, **continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.”*

- STARTING IS EASY, STICKING IS HARD!

B. A DISCIPLE OVERCOMES

1 John 2:12-13 – “I write to you dear children because your sins have been forgiven ... I write to you young men because **you have overcome...”*

Rev 2-3 – To the seven churches in Revelation Jesus spoke: **He who overcomes...*

- I will give the right to eat from the tree of life. (2:7)
- Will not be hurt at all by the second death (2:11)
- I will give some of the hidden manna (2:17)
- I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it (2:17)
- I will give authority over all nations (2:26)
- Will be dressed in white (3:5)
- I will never blot out his name from the book of life (3:5)
- I will acknowledge his name before my Father (3:5)
- I will make a pillar (3:12)
- I will write on him the name of my go, and the name of the city of my God, and I will also write on him my new name. (3:12)
- I will give the right to sit with me on my throne (3:21)

C. A DISCIPLE OBEYS

Mt 28:19-20 – “Therefore Go and make disciples of all nations, ... **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”*

James 1:22 – “Don’t merely listen to the word, **deceiving yourselves. Do what it says.”*

- THE BLESSING COMES IN “DOING”, NOT SIMPLY HEARING
- DOING IS ALSO THE KEY TO SURVIVING THE STORMS OF LIFE

D. A DISCIPLE REPRODUCES

Heb 5:12 – “In fact, though by this time **you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you ... Therefore, let us ... go on to maturity...”*

1 Tim 2:1-2 – “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And **the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”*

- PRINCIPLE OF 12

E. A DISCIPLE FINISHES

Acts 20:24 – “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may **finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me...”*

1 Tim 4:7 – “I have fought the good fight, I have **finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

- SPARKLERS, CANDLES, TRICK CANDLES

3. THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

A. THEY MOVE BEYOND THE CROWDS

**Luke 14:25-26 – “Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.’”*

B. THEY DIE TO SELF (PERSONAL AMBITIONS, GOALS, DESIRES) – FOR A GREATER CAUSE)

**Luke 14:27 – “’And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.’”*

- THE CROSS IS THE PLACE WHERE MY WILL AND HIS WILL CROSSES AND HE WINS

C. THEY DETERMINE AND COUNT THE COST

**Luke 14:28-30 – “’Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’”*

D. THEY FORSAKE THE PLEASURES AND POSSESSIONS OF LIFE

**Luke 14:33 – “In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.*

**Phil 4:8 – “What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ...”*

- STEWARDS V POSSESSORS

Conclusion: In churches across America, much of what has been shared today is a foreign concept (maybe even to some of us here); but please hear God’s Word and desire for us to live wholly abandoned lives for His sake and cause! May God give us the grace needed to never compromise His message and to walk as disciples of Jesus Christ!