



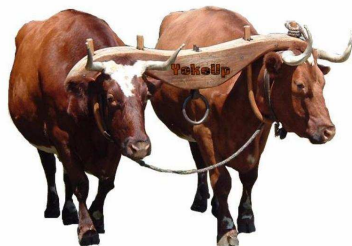
Are you REALLY a Disciple Of Jesus Christ?

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According to the dictionary, the word "disciple" means one who embraces and assists in spreading the teachings of another. But in the Word of God, the meaning of the word is much clearer: a learner; a pupil.



Discipleship is more than just imitating what Jesus did and taught, a disciple is a student, a learner: "Take my YOKE upon YOU, and LEARN of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart [HUMILITY]" (MATTHEW 11:29).

A yoke is a coupling, allowing one to walk in unison with another. To learn about our Saviour is to discover that he IS meek and lowly.

Jesus Christ did not come into the world to be a Superstar. He was, and is a man that "...made himself of NO REPUTATION, and took upon him the form of a SERVANT" (PHILIP. 2:7). He was, and is a man that is "...DESPISED AND REJECTED of men; a MAN OF SORROWS, and ACQUAINTED with grief" (ISAIAH 53:3).

Does this sound like the Jesus you hear about today? Yes, the Son of God IS sitting on the right hand of his Father in heaven now, but he is still despised and rejected by men on this earth today.

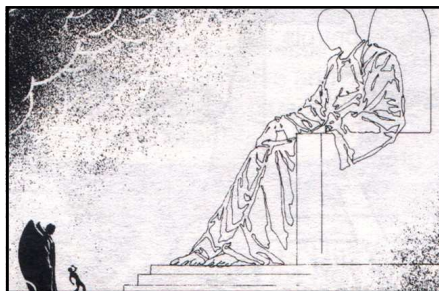
A certain scribe came to Jesus and said, "...Master, I will follow thee WHITHERSOEVER THOU GOEST" (MATTHEW 8:19), and most people today are repeating this pledge. But are you really following where he leads?

Religion has re-invented the character of Jesus to reflect themselves, but the true image of Jesus' character is described here: "...The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head" (MATTHEW 8:20).

So the question is, "Do you still want to follow Jesus, even though he is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and well acquainted with grief?"

Jesus said to another, "...FOLLOW ME. But he said, Lord, suffer [ALLOW] me FIRST to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the DEAD bury THEIR dead: but GO THOU AND PREACH the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me FIRST go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, NO MAN, having PUT HIS HAND to the plough, and LOOKING BACK, is FIT [SUITABLE] for the kingdom of God" (LUKE 9:59-62).

Those who follow Jesus are prepared to be SERVANTS, and are ready to plough WITH their Saviour. "NO MAN can serve TWO MASTERS: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye CANNOT serve God and mammon [WEALTH]" (MATTHEW 6:24).



There are many today who are in DANGER of the judgment because of the LUST for the many faces of wealth.

Jesus said, "If any man COME TO ME, and HATE NOT [TO LOVE LESS] his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and HIS OWN LIFE ALSO, he CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE. And whosoever doth not BEAR HIS CROSS, and COME AFTER me, CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE" (LUKE 14:26-27).

To follow Jesus may COST YOU your friends, the fellowship of family members, or even your relationship with your husband or wife. It may even COST YOU the luxury of the things of this world.

But if you and I are BORN AGAIN, then the

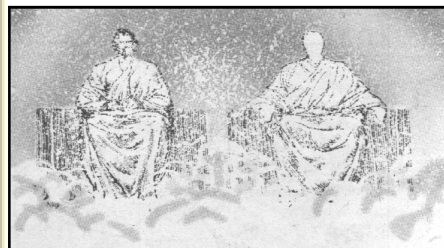
Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit "...that we are the children of God: and if children, then HEIRS; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; IF SO BE that we SUFFER with him, that we may be also GLORIFIED TOGETHER" (ROMANS 8:16-17).

Another question for you is, "What has it COST YOU to follow Jesus?" Jesus "...said to them all, If any man will COME AFTER ME, let him DENY HIMSELF, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow me [TO BE IN THE SAME WAY WITH]" (LUKE 9:23). "So likewise, WHOSOEVER he be of you that FORSAKETH NOT ALL THAT HE HATH, he CANNOT be my disciple" (LUKE 14:33).

Paul's admonition to believers in Philippi were to "Beware of DOGS [RETURNING TO THEIR OWN VOMIT- 2 PETER 2:22], beware of EVIL WORKERS [EVIL TOILERS; EVIL TEACHERS], beware of THE CONCISION [THOSE WHO CUT DOWN AND MULTI-LATE THE WORDS OF TRUTH]" (PHILIP 3:2).

In these last days, Satan is doing all he can to frustrate the Grace of God with a gospel of prosperity, a gospel which millions are putting their trust in. But we should be as Paul while in this world:

"...what things were GAIN to me, those I COUNTED LOSS for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I COUNT ALL THINGS BUT LOSS for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have SUFFERED the LOSS of ALL THINGS, and do count them but DUNG" (PHILIP. 3:2, 7-10).



Jesus said, "If the world HATE you, ye know that it hated me BEFORE it hated you...I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world HATETH you...The SERVANT is not GREATER than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also PERSECUTE you" (JOHN 15:18-20). Compare your Christian life with these words.