

The Action of a True Disciple of Jesus

Matthew 8:18-27

Introduction:

- Today's most popular term for a person who has some kind of belief in Jesus - _____
- The biblical terms used in order of frequency
 1. D _____ (used over 200 times but is NOT used anymore after Acts 21:16)
 2. S _____ (used 60 times)
 3. B _____ (used a dozen times)
 4. C _____ (used three times – here; Acts 26:28; 1Pet 4:16)
- Jesus was not concerned with labels but defined what a true disciple really was.
 1. Matthew arranges his narrative to point to one action Jesus demands from disciples, to f _____ Him.
 2. The word is used _____ times in verses 18-27 to three different people.
 3. How are you following Jesus?

Will you following Jesus w _____ He leads? (18-20)

- A certain scribe approached Jesus with a promise
 1. A scribe
 - a. These were the experts in the Scriptures and Jewish oral tradition. They were the r _____ of that day.
 - b. They were often associated with the P _____ because they joined forces in dealing with Jesus.
 2. This scribe
 - a. Called Jesus, t _____ and so recognized Jesus as superior to him.
 - b. Was caught up in the t _____ - Jesus's miracles, His teachings, the response of the crowds, etc.
 - c. Promised to follow Jesus w _____ He might go.
- The response of Jesus
 1. Was a warning to the scribe that following Him is not all thrills:
 - a. Foxes and birds have a h _____ to return to each night.
 - b. Jesus had no certain place to return to each night because His ministry required t _____

2. Is a challenge to us – are we really following Him wherever He leads?
 - a. Is He leading you to minister in a certain p_____? (e.g. inner city, nursing home, foreign land)
 - b. Is He leading you to minister to a certain p_____?
 - c. Is He leading you to do a certain t_____? (e.g. to forgive)
 - d. Will you commit right now to follow Jesus wherever He leads you?

Will you follow Jesus w_____ delay? (21,22)

● A certain disciple of Jesus, who was not an a_____, expressed his desire to follow Jesus AFTER he buries his dad.

1. His dad was not d_____ (we can conclude this because Jews prepared a corpse for burial immediately after death and usually had the funeral on the same day).
2. His dad was not s_____ (we can conclude this because Jesus healed ALL the sick brought to him).
3. His dad was o_____. This disciple wanted to delay following Jesus wherever until after his dad died.

● Jesus's response

1. *Let (permit, allow) the dead to bury their own dead.*
 - a. The word translated as *let, permit, or allow* is the usual word *to forgive* and so can be translated as l_____. (See the RSV, and ESV).
 - b. A person who is physically dead cannot bury anyone. So, Jesus must mean those who are s_____ dead.
2. Jesus is commanding this man to leave the unbeliever to this excuse of delaying the commitment to k_____ following Him.

● Jesus stated that we cannot be His disciple if we love anyone or anything m_____ than we love Him (Lk 14:26)

1. Jesus is not referring to isolated incidents but a l_____.
2. What are some reasons people may delay following Jesus even though they believe that He is God in the flesh and the payment for sin?
 - a. *I'll commit my life to Him after I clean up my life more.*
 - b. *I'll commit my life to Him after I experience a certain thing.*

● Questions for family (or group) discussion:

1. What in my life demonstrates that I love Jesus more than I love my family?
2. What in my life demonstrates that I love Jesus more than I love my friends?
3. What in my life demonstrates that I love Jesus more than I love my money?

Are you following Jesus w_____ complete dependence? (23-27)

● The disciples (i.e. a_____) follow Jesus into a boat

1. Jesus takes a n_____
2. A sudden s_____ rocks the boat but does not wake up Jesus (a picture of perfect peace, knowing that He is secure in the Father's hands).
3. The apostles f_____ that they all are going to die and wake up Jesus, crying for Him to save them.

● Jesus's response BEFORE calming the storm.

1. *Why are you afraid?*
 - a. This tells us that they had no r_____ to fear.
 - b. This tells us that they were d_____ by fear to act the way they did.
2. *O men of little faith*
 - a. This tells us that they had s_____ faith (the word faith means trust, dependence)
 - b. This tells us that fear and faith are incompatible.

● Fear robs us from experiencing the Lord in the way He intends

1. Fear of doing a certain ministry – faith is depending upon the Lord to use you.
2. Fear of rejection – faith is depending upon the Lord and pleasing Him.
3. Fear of what others might think – faith is depending upon what the Lord thinks.
4. Fear of failure – faith is depending upon the Lord for the results.