

Discipleship - Lordship

Acts 10:14

13 And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." 14 But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

We read the scripture that proceeds this already this morning. But there is a far bigger story than we have discovered so far.

Peter was of course an apostle, one of the chief apostles. They had received the great commission to make disciples of all nations. But for some years now they have not done that. They have remained in Jerusalem and primarily saw Christianity as a revision of Judaism. But God is ready to push them to beyond the edge of their comfort zone.

God has already prepared a godly Gentile man and his family to receive the gospel. But God needs to send them a messenger and Peter is that messenger. But Peter was a good Jew and the Jews have no dealings with Gentiles. They would not enter their home, eat with them or even greet one on the street. So God has to convince Peter that although he has been being a good Jew, he wasn't being a good disciple. So God sets Peter us with a vision. In this vision, Peter sees a great cloth or net let down from heaven and in it are all kinds of animals that we use commonly for food today. But these are animals that the law of Moses commanded the Jews not to eat. Each time the net comes down there is a voice that says "Rise and eat" but Peter responds "not so, Lord" and then God tells Peter that he should not call unclean what God has called clean.

At the end of the visions there are some men at the door who have come to take Peter to see their master. These are Gentile men and they intend to take Peter into a Gentile's home. What will Peter do? Will he obey Jesus or will he do what he thinks is right.

You will need to read the rest of Acts 10 & 11 to find out what Peter did and what the other good Jews did to Peter for what he did. That is not what we want to discuss this morning.

Discipleship is a process begun in regeneration (the new birth) and we continue to be disciples throughout our lives. Hopefully we are always moving in the right direction. Hopefully we do not make too many mistakes, do not fall too many times. But it is like climbing a mountain, we may slide back down but when we get up we continue the climb.

- I. There is a contrast between a teacher and the disciple.
 - A. Matt 10:24 "A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 "It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! 26 "Therefore do not fear them.
 - B. The idea of this passage is that the teacher, the master is above his students, his servants.
 - C. The conclusion is that we should not expect better treatment than Jesus received.

- D. But we can also learn here our subjection to Jesus.
1. He is the one to whom we are responsible.
 2. He is responsible for discipling us, for our training and our job assignment.
 3. Our obligation is to listen and to learn and then obey.

II. Peter is a good illustration of what most of us face in our striving to be a disciple.

A. Matt 16:22 21 ¶ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

24 ¶ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

1. What is going on here?
2. Why does Jesus refer to Peter as Satan?
3. What was Peter's sin?
 - a. Was it something evil?
 - b. Was it something immoral?
 - c. Was it that Peter was violating what he knew?
4. Peter's sin was in not yielding his will to that of Jesus.
 - a. He wanted Jesus to be an earthly Messiah.
 - b. But that was not God's plan.
 - c. Whenever we say, "Not so, Lord" we are doing the same thing.
 - d. When we say, "Not so, Lord" about how to spend our money and time, we are just as guilty as was Peter.

B. Matt 26:31 ¶ Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32 "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." 33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." 34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me

three times." 35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

1. Once again Peter stands up to Jesus to tell Him that He does not know what He is talking about.
 2. Peter here has more confidence in himself than he does in his Lord.
 3. Instead of learning humility and asking God for strength, Peter puts his confidence in himself.
 4. Pride goes before a fall and a haughty attitude before the day of destruction.
 5. When we forget that we are the pupil, we are the disciple, we are the servant, there is a tendency to forget that Jesus is Lord and we cannot do it without Him.
 6. Peter's sin was a mixture of pride and self-assurance in areas he had not mastered.
- C. Peter did not always get it right but he did eventually follow.
1. Peter's motives were at least pure.
 2. He did not want to go against what he knew the Bible to teach.
 3. Even when He rebuked Jesus for saying that He would die on a cross, still Peter said what he thought was best for Jesus.

III. How often do we say "not so, Lord" when God speaks to our hearts.

- A. We must remember that Jesus said in Lu 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"
- B. Matt 7: 21 ¶ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' 24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."
- C. The blessing is not in the hearing but in the obeying.
1. Most preaching in America today is like that of Ezekiel.

- a. Eze 33:32 "Indeed you *are* to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.
2. Joh 13:17 "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.
 - a. The blessing is not in the hearing.
 - b. The blessing is not in the knowing.
 - c. The blessing is not in the teaching.
 - d. The blessing is in the doing.

When we take Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we give Him our lives. But He loves us. He doesn't take them and destroy them. No, He sifts all the worthlessness out of them and then He gives our lives back to us to live for Him.

Title: My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers
February 24

The Delight of Sacrifice

"I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls ..." (2 Corinthians 12:15).

Once "the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit," we deliberately begin to identify ourselves with Jesus Christ's interests and purposes in others' lives (Romans 5:5). And Jesus has an interest in every individual person. We have no right in Christian service to be guided by our own interests and desires. In fact, this is one of the greatest tests of our relationship with Jesus Christ. The delight of sacrifice is that I lay down my life for my Friend, Jesus (see John 15:13). I don't throw my life away, but I willingly and deliberately lay it down for Him and His interests in other people. And I do this for no cause or purpose of my own. Paul spent his life for only one purpose—that he might win people to Jesus Christ. Paul always attracted people to his Lord, but never to himself. He said, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

When someone thinks that to develop a holy life he must always be alone with God, he is no longer of any use to others. This is like putting himself on a pedestal and isolating himself from the rest of society. Paul was a holy person, but wherever he went Jesus Christ was always allowed to help Himself to his life. Many of us are interested only in our own goals, and Jesus cannot help Himself to our lives. But if we are totally surrendered to Him, we have no goals of our own to serve. Paul said that he knew how to be a "doormat" without resenting it, because the motivation of his life was devotion to Jesus. We tend to be devoted, not to Jesus Christ, but to the things which allow us more spiritual freedom than total surrender to Him would allow. Freedom was not Paul's motive at all. In fact, he stated, "I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren ..." (Romans 9:3). Had Paul lost his ability to reason? Not at all! For someone who is in love, this is not an overstatement. And Paul was in love with Jesus Christ.