

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.
- realizing the power of a life in Christ-



WHAT JESUS REQUIRES OF HIS DISCIPLES

What exactly is a disciple? – a learner, one who follows someone’s teaching, as regards Jesus really all who manifest they are his disciples by abiding in his word. A disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus, a believer.

So really all believers are disciples of Jesus (unless a person has decided to quit growing in Christ and just sit on the bench, certainly not Jesus’ plans for his followers). We’re not focusing here on coming to accept Jesus as Lord and being saved. There’s plenty in the Bible on that, and we’ve talked a lot about that. Just look at John 3:3, 5 about being born again, or Romans 10:9 about confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing in your heart that he has been raised from the dead, or John 3:36 about simply believing.

Here I want to look for a minute at what Jesus expects of us believers after accepting him. So many like to focus on Jesus’ warmth, on his love, on how much he cares, and that is all true and valid and wonderful. But there is another side that gets little attention – Jesus is truth, and sometimes that truth sounds stern. Nevertheless, it is the truth.

In Luke 14:26-33 Jesus makes the very difficult point that no one can be his disciple unless he hates his father, mother, wife, children, and brethren, and sisters, and even his own life. That sounds stern. But Jesus doesn’t really want you to hate your closest family members! In dramatic fashion, he is making the point of where he should rank in your priorities. Remember the greatest of the commandments, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind? Remember the first of the Ten Commandments – thou shalt have no other Gods before me? Jesus’ point is that he should be so far above anything else in your priorities and in your love for him that by comparison your love for family members looks like hate. In other words, in your priorities, Jesus is at the top of this page, and everything else – including other people – is at the bottom or even lower. Nothing comes close to God, to Jesus, in importance to you and your life. Nothing.

Later on in verse 33 Jesus makes the same point regarding things, that no one can be his disciple if that person does not forsake all he has. Again, Jesus knows you need shelter and food and clothing and such.

He doesn't mean to rush out and get rid of absolutely everything. He just means that all those things you have cannot have any real significance to you. It's ok to have a sports car, but that car better not mean anything to you in comparison to your love for Jesus.

When Jesus called his disciples, he called Peter and Andrew while they were working with their fishing nets. Immediately they left their nets and followed him. He called James and John while they were with their father and their fishing boat. Immediately they left their father and the boat. He called Matthew while Matthew was sitting at the tax collector's booth. Matthew got up and followed Jesus.

There are so many powerful scriptures about what it means to truly follow Jesus. In Luke 9:59-60, Jesus says to a man, "Follow me." But the man replies by asking if he can first go and bury his father. Jesus' reply is shocking: "Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God." Priorities, again. Forget the dead. And your past life. You have been blessed to know Jesus. Spend your time and effort in following him!

In the next two verses is a similar account. A man says he will follow Jesus but first he asks to go home to say goodbye to his family. Jesus says, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Priorities. Do you recognize just who Jesus is? If you accept Jesus and then are led into some service for him – perhaps full time ministry, or missions work in foreign or local areas, or maybe part time service like leading a Bible study, or feeding the homeless, or speaking to neighbors about Jesus, or giving funds to a good ministry, or whatever – you cannot look back. You can't say, why, if I had not given all those funds to this ministry, I could have bought a new car. You can't say, why, if I didn't spend so much time working on this ministry project or that, I would have more time to play tennis or to go to basketball games. Hopefully, you get the idea. Your following Jesus has to have him way at the top of your priorities. No looking back. Of course you can play tennis or go to a basketball game or get a car, but that can't be important at all in comparison to your love for Jesus.

One famous Christian writer often said that the closer you get to Jesus, the more things and people around you become like shadows. Oh yes, you know they are there. But they are not your focus. I like to say it is as if Jesus is in bold, vivid colors and all the other people and things around you are in shades of gray.

There is so much more that builds on what we have mentioned thus far. A key conclusion is that if you are truly to be his disciple, you may have to leave behind some friends and family members who just don't understand what you are now about. You may have to forsake the career you have pursued before becoming a follower of Jesus. You definitely will have to rearrange your priorities after you become his disciple, his follower.

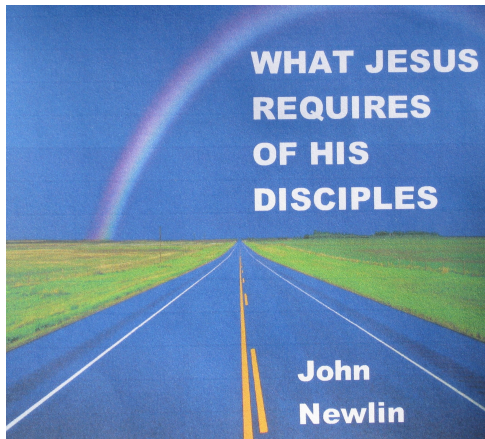
And Jesus has other expectations, other requirements. Remember the time Jesus washed the feet of the original apostles at the Last Supper? His point was that if he, their Lord and master (and the Son of God) washed their feet, then what might they consider too low a chore for them to do for others and for Jesus? The answer is absolutely nothing.

We can't begin to cover all this in one newsletter, and I encourage you to request the new CD on this subject described on the top of the next page.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

P. O. Box 15797, Wilmington, NC 28408 * 910 395 1465 * Fax: 910 395 1569
www.johnnewlinministries.org Email: info@johnnewlinministries.org

NEW CD ! – “WHAT JESUS REQUIRES OF HIS DISCIPLES”



If you are a true believer who is following Jesus, you are his disciple. Jesus has a lot to say about his expectations for his disciples. His requirements come across at times as stern and tough, a stricter side of our savior. But they are truth, and they are essential. Remember, Jesus is truth.

Following Jesus means obeying his commands. Growing in Christ comes from obeying his commands. He said if you love him, you will obey his commands.

This CD explores the amazing words of Jesus regarding his requirements for his disciples. You must know what he expects.

THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE AND JESUS' RETURN

The recent earthquake in Haiti is a giant human disaster, a tragedy for all who are in or connected to Haiti. But here I want to note something else. The scale of this earthquake puts it into the list of the 20 most deadly earthquakes in recorded history – really, into the top 10 of that list. You've heard me on this subject before. Great earthquakes in divers places is one of the prophecies of Jesus himself regarding events to happen leading up to his return. Without going into detail, I now here remind you of these three facts that are either encouraging to those awaiting Jesus' return or shocking to those who haven't yet waked up to what is happening in our time:

- Of the 20 most deadly earthquakes in recorded history – and that is hundreds and hundreds of years, 11 have occurred in the last approximately 100 years! That's 55 %. If I had just asked you how many you think have occurred in the last hundred years, you would likely have said 1 or 2, and mathematically that would have been a reasonable answer. But 11? More than half? Surely you recognize this is out of a normal distribution over time.
- Of the 10 deadliest hurricanes (or typhoons) in recorded history, 4 or forty percent, have occurred in the last 40 years. The same point as above – this is way more than would have normally been expected (Jesus also warned of people being frightened by the roaring and tossing of the sea.).
- Now, for the real shocker, 4 of the deadliest earthquakes of recorded history and 1 of the deadliest hurricanes of recorded history have all happened since **December 26, 2004**. And 3 of these have occurred since **May 2008**!

Yes, partners and friends, we are living in the days of Jesus' return. As detective Friday in the old show *Dragnet* would have said, “just the facts.” Yes, just look at the facts.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

P. O. Box 15797, Wilmington, NC 28408 * 910 395 1465 * Fax: 910 395 1569
www.johnnewlinministries.org Email: info@johnnewlinministries.org

2010 in the First Few Weeks:

In just the first few weeks of 2010 the ministry has

- sent many packages of Bibles and ministry CDs to primarily young people in Ghana who have requested them – middle school students and others who somehow have been led to this ministry.
- produced six new television episodes dealing with important subjects such as active receiving from God, Jesus' requirements for his disciples, gifts in heaven, and truths of God and life.
- broadcast ***DARE TO BELIEVE!*** weekly in areas where about 60% of those on our mailing list live. We do hope to expand to more areas soon as funds permit.
- sent two issues of the monthly ministry newsletter throughout the US and to other countries.
- begun production on four new teaching CDs.
- continued to add material to the ministry web site – the latest video is “*Your Authority in Christ.*”
- continued a new meeting series begun late last year.
- continued all the other usual ministry activities – such as distributing ministry materials and CDs and responding to prayer requests and requests for healing

Remember, if you want us to come to your area with in-person programs, whether preaching/teaching seminars or healing services, please let us know. We do need an indication of your interest and support in our coming to the area.

Without God strengthening us with might by his spirit in our inner person, and the joy and power of his presence, this really would be impossible. We greatly appreciate your prayers for us and the ministry. For many of the ministry tasks, funds are essential. Some of you have long been regular contributing partners of the ministry, and for that we are so very grateful. We ask all the rest of you to consider if you might become contributing partners. Regular monthly contributions are greatly appreciated. So too are individual contributions! Remember, giving to God brings blessings to the giver, as described in so many places in the Bible. That is what you are doing when you give to this ministry.

May you always live in the blessings of God.

John

[All contributions to John Newlin Ministries, Inc. – whether money or material goods or stocks or bonds – are tax deductible. John Newlin Ministries, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit corporation.]

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

P. O. Box 15797, Wilmington, NC 28408 * 910 395 1465 * Fax: 910 395 1569
www.johnnewlinministries.org Email: info@johnnewlinministries.org