

HOW WE CAN KNOW WE ARE TRULY A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST?

Jesus authoritatively calls upon would-be disciples to count the cost, thus revealing their genuine heart motives, and true eternal status before Him
Matthew 8:18-22

I. REALIZE JESUS CONSISTENTLY AVOIDED THOSE WHO WERE DESIRING TO FOLLOW HIM ON THEIR TERMS: We do not seek Christ, He seeks us... on His terms (v.18)

A. Disciples and discipleship explained (various passages).

B. Jesus orders a departure when He saw the crowds gathering (v.18)

II. UNDERSTAND PART OF THE COST OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP: Jesus makes it clear to some would-be disciples what following Him will cost, thus revealing they were not true disciples (vs.19-22)

A. **True disciples are willing to suffer hardship in this life:** Jesus clarifies the nature of true discipleship to a Scribe eager to make a quick profession (vs.19-20)

1. A Scribe professes to the Lord that he will follow Him everywhere (v.19)

2. The Lord's response reveals that it isn't as glamorous as you might think; following Him involves hardship (v.20)

B. **True disciples are willing to leave family and finance in this life:** Jesus calls a waffling would-be disciple to leave his family and financial security behind (vs.21-22)

1. Jesus calls upon a disciple to "follow Him" (Luke 9:59)

2. The disciple's response: He requests permission to take care of his dad until he dies (v.21)

3. Jesus responds, commanding him to follow and proclaim His Word; thus, let the spiritually dead care for the spiritually dead (v.22, Luke 9:60)