

# Climbing with Christ Pt 2 Matthew 5:1,2

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>*

*Mountain moving faith (Mt 17:20) requires mountain climbing faith!*

Reflection: God's word clearly teaches that:

## 1) We're saved by God's Grace through the vehicle of personal Faith!

Eph. 2:8 *"By Grace ye are saved, through Faith."* (Pistis: persuasion, credence, conviction) (also Ro. 5:1,2)

## 2) "Faith" and "Belief" are not the same thing!

- "Believe" in English can mean to either accept (or suppose) an idea or opinion is true. It involves a mental/academic (head) assent.
- "Believe" in the Bible (pisteuō) literally means to **"trust in and commit to!"** It is a matter of the heart, not the head! Ro. 10:10
- Many have embraced the wrong kind of belief! (See Mt 7:21-23)

## 3) There's a profound difference between being a believer and being a disciple!

a) "Believer" (Pistos) is found Twice in NT. (Acts 4:14; 1 Tim. 4:12) and it means trustworthy!

- Genuine "believers" trust Jesus Christ as their Savior! (*They believe he's worthy of their trust!*)
- Their focus is on "Forgiveness" from Jesus. (*What they can "get" from Him.*)

b) "Disciple" (Mathētēs) is found 255 times and it means to learn, understand, and **follow**!

- *These are growing to trust Jesus, not just as savior, but as their Lord! (kureos: supreme authority) (They strive to be worthy of His trust!*
- *Their Focus is on Following Jesus! (Fellowship) Jn 10:27*

## 4) Christ's clear desire is for us to become growing disciples! (2 Pt 1:5-11)

a) The emphasis (or outcome) of Discipleship Is Transformation → Committed Action! *Jms1:22; 2:18-20*

1<sup>st</sup> Time the word "Disciple" is found in NT is in Mt. 5:1 *"And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them..."*

While the Multitudes, returned to their respective "comfort Zones", The "disciples" were willing to climb the mountain and so heard the transforming truths about God's Kingdom.

## Notice the Process or Development of a Disciple.

### 1. Curious DESIRE:

A. We've Met The Master And Want To Know More About Him. Pr 18:1

B. As is true of our Salvation, God also initiates this invitation / desire. Ps. 27:8; Jn 6:36,37; 44

This "curious desire" should lead us to the place of a:

### 2. Committed Decision. (To follow Him)

A. We must respond to God's invitation. (Rev. 3:20; Gen. 6:3; Isaiah 55:6; Heb 3:8,15;4:7)

This committed decision should produce:

### 3. A Clear Declaration: Ro. 10:10-12 *Faith is personal, but it's not Private!*

*Ps 107:2 "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so..."*

#### A. Of Intention.

1) Lines are drawn at this point! Exo 32:26 *"Who's on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me!"*  
*And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him."*

a) This decision shaped their Destiny! (The Levitical inheritance!)

#### B. Of Allegiance. Joshua 24:15 *"choose you this day whom ye will serve"* (See also 1 Kings 18:21)

1) God doesn't want secret servants! Jn 19:38,39 *"after this Joseph..., being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, ...And there came also Nicodemus, which ...came to Jesus by night..."*

Desire → Decision → Declaration, but they will all be fruitless without:

#### 4. A Committed Dedication.

A. As we follow Jesus through Crises, our desire, decision, declaration will be tested!

1) After ministering to the Multitudes Jesus *"gave commandment to depart unto the other side"* Mt. 8:18

a) Although several thought about joining him, only the disciples got in the boat! (Mt 8:19-23)

*While the multitude chose the safety of the shore, the Disciples followed Jesus into the Storm...*

B. As we follow through Crises, our Desire, Decision & Declaration Will be rewarded!

a) They experienced the power and peace of Christ's Presence! Mt 8:26-27

C. We need to count the cost and be willing to pay it! (See Mt. 8:19-22)

*"Success always has a price and it must be paid in full and in advance."* H.L. Hunt

Heb 10:36 *'ye have need of patience, that, after you've done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.*

*38 Now the just shall live by faith!"*

1) Being a "believer" costs us little more than our Pride and our trust.

2) Becoming a disciples may cost us everything! After Jesus spoke of the importance of "counting the cost" he said *"So likewise, whosoever he be that forsaketh not (Apotassōmai: arranges in order) all that he hath,*

*he cannot be my disciple."* Luke 14:33

3) The Crises of life are the Crucibles through which God proves and purifies our faith

And "pushes" us through this process! Job 23:10 *"He knoweth the way that I take,*

*when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold..."* (See also 1 Peter 1:7; Ro. 8:28,29)

**Conclusion:** The process of Discipleship involves a:

1) Curious Desire *"That I may know him..."* Ph 3:10

2) Concrete Decision *"what things were gain to me, I counted loss for Christ..."* Ph. 3:7

3) Clear Declaration *"I follow after..."* vs 12

4) Committed Dedication. *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the High Calling of God..."* vs 14

*Where are you in this Process? Where do you truly want to be?*

Or are you more like the crowd that Paul described in Vs 18,19?

*"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

*Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind (focus on) earthly things."*

**Application: Our Decision, Declaration & Dedication**

**Will affect our Destiny and inheritance! Mt 16:24-27**

*"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

*or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels;*

*and then he shall reward every man according to his works."*

**(Not according to his beliefs!)**