

June 5, 2022

The *Value* of Discipleship

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

In **Luke 14:26-33**, Jesus spoke of the “cost” of being His disciple, emphasizing that following Him must not be taken lightly.

Jesus doesn’t want us to be delusional about the commitment of true discipleship. Following Christ demands forsaking whatever we must in order to please our Lord. It’s a 24/7 lifestyle that may involve losing earthly possessions (cf. **Matt. 19:21**), or close friendships (**Luke 14:26**). It may even involve facing physical persecution, as many of the 1st century Christians did (cf. **Rev. 2:10**).

Those whose minds are focused only on temporal things may wonder why someone would choose such a life. What could be worth forsaking so much?

God’s answer to this question gets to the *value* of discipleship. While the commitment Christ demands is great, the value of belonging to Him far outweighs the cost.

Consider the parables of the kingdom in **Matthew 13:44-46**: ***Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found, and hid. In his joy, he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who is a merchant seeking fine pearls, who having found one pearl of great price, he***

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(Continued)

went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

If we see the kingdom of heaven as the treasure that it is, whatever we must give up to be a part of it will seem light comparatively.

Consider also the example of the apostle Paul. The “cost of discipleship” was steep for him. He was shipwrecked, beaten, and stoned (cf. **2 Cor. 11:24-27**). Yet, as he suffered in service to Christ, he said, “*our light affliction, which is for the moment, works for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we don’t look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal*” (**2 Cor. 4:17-18**).

Why would Paul call severe hardships “*light affliction*?”

It’s evident from **verse 18** that he was *spiritually-minded*. He lived for the purpose of pleasing and glorifying God rather than making temporal endeavors his life’s focus (cf. **2 Cor. 5:9**). Paul experienced joy and peace in Christ that was much deeper than anything the world could offer. This made hardships and persecutions seem relatively light in

his eyes.

Being Christ’s disciple allows one, like Paul, to experience the joy of honoring the One whose glory we exist for. The Christian vocation gives meaning and purpose to one’s life (cf. **Eccl. 1:1; 5:10; 12:13**).

The Christian lifestyle allows us not only to help others with their temporal needs, but also with our supremely important spiritual needs.

Christ’s disciples not only *provide* spiritual help, but also have the most wonderful Helper whose ears are open to our prayers (cf. **1 Pet. 3:12**).

Walking with Christ brings an inner peace that surpasses understanding (**Phil. 4:6-7**), a joy that is unspeakable (**1 Pet. 1:8**), and a hope that is a steadfast and sure anchor of the soul (**Heb. 6:19**).

This hope has as its object the ultimate comfort provided to those who follow Christ: eternal life in heaven.

If we set our affection on things above, like Paul did, we will realize that while the cost of discipleship is high, the value far outweighs the cost.

May we choose to do whatever we must in order to submit to Christ. Being His disciple is more than worth it.

Area Gospel Meetings

Robinson Church of Christ:

June 11 (with JR Siegler)

Singing: 5:00 PM; Sermon: 6:00 PM

Walnut Chapel Church of Christ:

June 19 – 24 (with Keith Sharp)

Sun: 9:30, 6:00; Mon-Fri: 7:00 PM

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God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.” – John 15:10 (ESV)

Prayer List

Holly G
 Jerry & Sandy S
 Cheryl S
 Norma C
 Raymond B
 Robert C
 Sharon G (Cancer)
 Doans' Grandson, Wilson
 Devin D (Cancer)
 Vicki S (Cancer)
 Susan F (Cancer)
 Christie's Brother, Jerry (Lung Cancer)
 Travis' Co-worker's Daughter, Kacie
 Marci B & Family
 Berlyn Y (Surgery)

Daily Bible Reading

June 5 – 2 Chronicles 23-24; John 15
 June 6 – 2 Chronicles 25-27; John 16
 June 7 – 2 Chronicles 28-29; John 17
 June 8 – 2 Chronicles 30-31; John 18:1-18
 June 9 – 2 Chronicles 32-33; John 18:19-40
 June 10 – 2 Chronicles 34-36; John 19:1-22
 June 11 – Ezra 1-2; John 19:23-42

“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,” – Eph. 6:14 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, June 5, 2022

Bible Study: Dan D

Worship: John

Evening: Dave

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Michael

Clean Building

Donna G

Prepare Communion

Julzy

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (8th) adult class:

Ephesians 5:5ff

Next Sunday (12th) adult class:

Attitudes Toward Those in Sin

Assignments

Sunday, June 12, 2022

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Darrell

Table: Dave

Serve: Dan H

John

Jeff

Travis

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Invitation: Michael

Anniversaries

June 7 – Michael & Julzy

June 10 – Jeff & Patty

June 13 – Douglas & Madison

Birthdays

June 16 – Jenna