



The Gospel of Matthew

“The Nature of Following Jesus”
(part two)

Matthew 10:34-42

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it”

– Jesus
(Matthew 10:37-39)



Nature of Discipleship

➤ Essence of Following Jesus

- a call to supreme allegiance to Jesus over every human relationship
- a call to an ongoing death to self-interest, even unto physical death



Nature of Discipleship

Why this demand?

1. Practical Necessity

- the values of Jesus will result in conflicts with family, self-interest and society...
- if you love family or self more than Jesus, you will not follow Jesus



Nature of Discipleship

Why this demand?

2. Path to “Life”

- the path to real “life” is losing your life for Jesus’ sake
- the path to ultimate destruction is finding your life by forsaking Jesus

“For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake shall find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?”

(Matthew 16:25-26)

“He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to eternal life.”

(John 12:25)



Nature of Discipleship

Implications

1. This demand of Jesus is loving and ultimately life-giving
 - we are made to love and enjoy God supremely
 - supreme love for anything but God is suicide



Nature of Discipleship

Implications

2. In following Jesus, there is no ultimate loss of any good thing
 - though you lose everything (life), you will receive it in abundance
 - there is no ultimate sacrifice or self-denial

Then Peter answered and said to Him, "Behold we left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"

And Jesus said to them... "everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life."

(Matthew 19:27-29)