



## CHAPTER 8

### The Jesus Type of Disciple

To this point, Jesus has been systematically revealing WHO HE IS, but now He starts preparing them for His DEATH and a future WITHOUT HIM.

→ *Why do you think they reacted the way they did? What must it have been like to receive that news? Why did Jesus say, 'Get thee behind me, satan?'*

Peter's response is indicative of a human tendency not to see divine purpose: We think in terms of NATURAL not SUPERNATURAL, EARTH not HEAVEN, FLESH not SPIRIT, LAW not GRACE, LOGIC not FAITH, TEMPORARY not ETERNAL.

→ *As you walk down that list and through those pairs, which of the two do you tend towards? Why? Which have you grown in? How might you grow further?*

\* Satan's Philosophy = GLORY without SUFFERING.

\* God's Philosophy = SUFFERING transformed into GLORY.

→ *How does Satan's philosophy play out in the world's eyes? How does God's way play out in Kingdom terms?*

→ *"The philosophy you accept will determine HOW you LIVE and SERVE." Discuss!*

#### 4 Ss IN MARK 8:31-38

a) SECRET: To GIVE His LIFE away

b) SHOCK: If Jesus was indeed the MESSIAH, how could He be REJECTED and why would He SUFFER?

c) SUFFERING: OT prophecies predicted the Messiah would be both CONQUERING KING and SUFFERING SERVANT.

d) SURRENDER: New words started appearing in His teaching, like COST, PRICE, SUFFERING, REJECTION; so the crowd started to THIN.

"SALVATION is FREE, to be a DISCIPLE will COST you EVERYTHING."

\* Jesus described it as a NARROW WAY.

\* Paul talked about FIGHTING the good FIGHT of FAITH and WORKING OUT your salvation with FEAR and TREMBLING.

→ *What is the cost to you of following Jesus? If there is no cost, does that mean you're not really following? Do you ever hold back from following, obeying, witnessing, deciding because the cost looks too high?*

GOOD NEWS: Discipleship is a HIGH CALLING.

\* There is true FREEDOM, PURPOSE, JOY in following Jesus.

\* He doesn't promise us FREEDOM FROM PAIN, but He does promise FULNESS OF JOY.

\* We have WORD, SPIRIT & FRIENDS to help us along the road.

#### 1. WHAT DOES A TRUE DISCIPLE LOOK LIKE?

3 conditions for true discipleship from Mark 8:34

a) We must SURRENDER ourselves completely to Him.

b) We must IDENTIFY with Him in suffering and death.

c) We must FOLLOW Him obediently, wherever He leads.

→ *"I reckon we should read the Beatitudes every morning, because the Sermon on the Mount defines what discipleship entails." Discuss!*

In the light of what Jesus taught & modelled, what does true discipleship look like?

\* Is it how many scriptures we can QUOTE or how lavishly we LOVE?

\* Is it how much we KNOW or how much of it we actually DO?

\* Is it about being RIGHT or being KIND?

\* Is it about self-PROMOTION or self-SACRIFICE?

\* Is it about ME looking good or making JESUS look good?

\* Is it about maximising my STRENGTHS or allowing Jesus to be glorified in my WEAKNESSES?

\* Is it about having it all MAPPED OUT or radically TRUSTING Jesus with the next step?

\* Is it about COMFORT or CHARACTER, POPULARITY or PURITY, VINDICATION or TRANSFORMATION?

→ *Work your way down each of those pairs and ask which one you're stronger in or tend towards. Why is the first one often appealing? How did Jesus model each of the second ones?*

→ *Is it tempting to go for comfort over character, popularity over purity, vindication over transformation? Why is the second one in each pair the real win?*

#### 2. WHO IS DISCIPLING YOU? JESUS or CULTURE?

\* You are being 'SPIRITUALLY FORMED,' knowingly or unknowingly, intentionally or unintentionally, on your terms, Jesus' terms or otherwise.

→ *Is your 'spiritual formation' intentional or unintentional, on your terms, Jesus' terms or some other terms?*

\* THE DANGER: CULTURE is discipling you rather than JESUS.

\* THE PICTURE is of a STUDENT sitting at their RABBI'S FEET. PROCESS = LEARNING from rabbi ... TASK = IMITATE rabbi ... OBJECTIVE = BECOME LIKE rabbi.

\* THE REALITY is you ARE being MOULDED: Either the WORLD / CULTURE / EXPERIENCE is squeezing you (Romans 12:2) or God the POTTER, REFINER, MASTER BUILDER is shaping you (2 Cor 3:18).

→ *How does culture 'disciple' you? Into what mould is culture trying to 'squeeze you'?*

→ *At whose feet are you sitting? Who are you learning from? What are the strongest influences?*

#### HELPFUL QUESTIONS:

- i) What are the strongest FACTORS in your DECISIONS? (Decision-making processes)
- ii) What VALUE SYSTEMS have you bought into?
- iii) What CHARACTER TRAITS are most appealing to you?
- iv) How do you define SUCCESS?
- v) With whom are you COMPETE and why and how?
- vi) Who are you trying to IMPRESS?
- vii) How much HOLD do MATERIAL THINGS have over you?
- viii) Are you routinely led by the SPIRIT or reactionary IMPULSES?

→ *Work your way down that list honestly. In what direction or to what is culture trying to drive you? In what direction or to what answers is the Lord leading you?*

Remember that the Kingdom is UPSIDE-DOWN!

### 3. IS DISCIPLESHIP YOUR TARGET?

More questions!

- a) Have you become MORE LIKE the Jesus type of disciple in the past 12 months or LESS?
- b) Are you SITTING AT JESUS' FEET?
- c) How much of a PRIORITY to you is sitting at Jesus' feet?
- d) What does sitting at Jesus' feet LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
- e) How much time do you spend in His PRESENCE?
- f) How much time do you spend in His WORD?
- g) How much time practically do you spend FOLLOWING in His MINISTRY FOOTSTEPS?
- h) Are you aware of His LOVE filling your heart and HOW OFTEN does it come cascading out?

→ *Again, work your way through the questions, analysing honestly and realistically how you're doing with each one, how strong a priority they are, why they're important and what you might do about to increase in each area?*

→ **William Barclay said**, *"Jesus never sought to lure men by the offer of an easy way; he sought to challenge them, to waken the sleeping chivalry in their souls, by the offer of a way than which none could be higher and harder. He came not to make life easy but to make men great."* Discuss!

RESPONSE: 3 big questions to take to the Lord

1. *Who is discipling you? Jesus or culture?*
2. *Is discipleship your target? Is there intentionality?*
3. *How, this week, are you going to sit at Jesus' feet?*