

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR
LECTURE 10 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS? - PART 3

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Secretary to be ready to hand out "Fishers of Men" application forms when the lecturer says so.

1. How can you tell if a person is a true disciple?

Jesus said, "You will **know** them by the **fruits**."

Matt 7:13-23 (NASB) "Enter by the **narrow gate**; for the gate is **wide**, and the way is **broad** that leads to **destruction**, and **many** are those who enter by it.

14 For the gate is **small**, and the way is **narrow** that leads to **life**, and **few** are those who find it.

15 Beware of the **false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

16 You will **know them by their fruits**. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they?

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

19 **Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

20 So then, **you will know them by their fruits.**

21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who **DOES THE WILL of My Father** who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not **prophecy** in Your name, and in Your name **cast out demons**, and in Your name perform many **miracles**?' "

23 And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.**' "

Jesus said the **gate is small**, the **way is narrow** that leads to life and **few** are those who find it.

The narrow road that leads to life is to **bear fruit** for God.

Every **fruitless** tree is **cut down** and thrown into the **fire**.

You don't just gain automatic entrance into the kingdom of heaven because you have confessed Jesus as your Lord, but because you are **DOING THE WILL OF GOD** (i.e. bearing fruit for God).

You don't just get into heaven because you are **born again** and cast out a demon here and prophesy there. Some are doing these things but **practice lawlessness** (the hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority). They are not in **submission** to the authority of the **local church** and Jesus said to them, "**I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME.**"

E.g. I knew a Pastor who had a critical spirit against the senior Pastor over him. It became so bad that he turned antagonistically rebellious against the man that God had put in authority over him. Later this rebellious Pastor had a heart attack. He actually died for a few minutes before they managed to resuscitate him. When he recovered he testified that he found his spirit descending into hell. He thought, "Why am I going to hell? I'm a Pastor. I preach the Gospel." He discovered you have to live the very Gospel you preach to make it into Heaven. He quickly repented of his rebellion against authority. Today he praises God for the second chance he got to live right before God to make it into Heaven.

1 Pet 4:17-18 (NASB) "For it is time for **judgment to begin with the household of God**; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

18 And if it is **with difficulty that the righteous are saved**, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?"

Why? Not because Christ's work on Calvary is insufficient, but because God requires more from us than we have realized.

He takes away every **fruitless branch** and casts it into the **fire**.

A **fruitful branch** is **pruned** (disciplined) that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:1-2,4-6 (NASB) *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.*

2 Every branch IN ME that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes (disciplines) *it, that it may bear more fruit.*

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me (through prayer, bible meditation and obedience).

5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

This is why the Bible says in **Phil 2:12b** that we must **"work out our own salvation with fear and trembling."**

2. What fruit are disciples to bear?

i) **Word fruit** evidenced in changed and cleaned up lifestyles.

John 15:3 (NASB) *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."*

ii) **Prayer fruit** evidenced in a vital and active prayer life.

John 15:7-8 (NASB) *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.*

8 By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove (show yourself) *to be My disciples."*

iii) **Fellowship fruit** evidenced in their love and desire to be found in the **temple** and **Home Fellowship** meetings.

Acts 2:46 (NASB) *"And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart."*

iv) The **fruit of the spirit** evidenced in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Gal 5:22,23 (NASB) *"But the fruit of the (born again human) Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

v) **Action fruit** evidenced in their obedience to go on to fulfill the calling or ministry that Jesus had commissioned them to.

Mat 28:18-20 (NASB) *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying...*

19 'Go...and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them...

20 teaching them...' "

We can bear this fruit that Jesus commanded us to bear, by being **actively involved** in the **Home Fellowship program**, praying for and discipling His people.

Those who have a real faith relationship with God should also be doing the works of God.

James 2:14,17,20 (NASB) *"What use is it, my brethren, if a man SAYS he has faith, but he has no works*

(actions)? *Can that faith save him?*

17 *Even so faith, if it has **no works, is dead, being by itself.***

20 *But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that **faith without works is useless?***"

Faith without works is dead and cannot save you.

3. If we could single out one of the most important fruits in Gal 5:22,23 that should be evidenced in a disciples life, what would it be?

Gal 5:22 (NASB) *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness..."*

The fruit of faithfulness.

Note: Some Bibles incorrectly **translate** this as **faith**. This is incorrect and out of place because all these fruits deal with **Christian character**. Faith has nothing to do with character, but faithfulness does.

Faithfulness is a fruit which **must be cultivated** in order to grow to **maturity** in our lives. It is not automatically there when we are born again.

Matt 26:56b (NASB) *"Then **all the disciples** left Him and fled."*

They had not grown in faithfulness and commitment.

Yet many years later, some of those same disciples who denied their Lord, died for their faith.

Peter was martyred for his faith, and history tells us he was crucified upside down. You can see how he had **grown in faithfulness**.

The **speed of such growth** depends **FIRSTLY** on how much time we spend as branches drawing from the vine in prayer, Bible study, Christian fellowship, witnessing, etc.

SECONDLY it also depends on the **attitude of our will** to determine to be faithful.

Lets examine these two **contrasting** verses on **faithfulness**.

Prov 25:13 (NASB) *"Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a **faithful messenger** to those who send him, for **he refreshes the soul** of his masters."*

Prov 25:19 (NASB) *"Like a bad tooth and an unsteady foot (or a foot that slips - RSV) is confidence in a **faithless man** in time of trouble."*

ILLUSTRATION: You're in trouble when you have no else to turn to, except a faithless brother whose let you down many times in the past. I once was in this position. I was going on leave and needed a certain urgent matter to be attended to. I had no one else to ask but this faithless youth Pastor who had let me down several times in the past. I stressed the urgency of the matter and beseeched him to please attend to the matter for me. On my return from holiday and much to my disappointment he had left the matter untouched, remaining true to his character.

A **faithful** man is a man whose **word** is his **bond**.

Psa 15:4c (NASB) A man of God *"...swears to his own hurt, and does not change."*

Some people can't even keep signed contracts, never mind their word. If your **word is no good, then you are no good**.

It is **FAITHFUL** men and women that God is looking for and will empower to be used in the ministry.

1 Tim 1:12 (NASB) *"I thank **Jesus Christ** our Lord, who has strengthened (empowered, enabled, made me equal to the task) me, because He considered me **faithful** (trustworthy, reliable), **putting me into service (the ministry** - NKJ)."*

ILLUSTRATION: As a pastor I once appointed a Home Fellowship leader that had recently joined our

fellowship, because he was highly qualified and gifted. He did so well in the beginning. Then he started missing meetings. All the people arrived, but he just did not pitch up. I learned the hard way to only appoint faithful people that you have a relationship with and can trust. God has an abundance of gifts to distribute to faithful people.

4. Which parable teaches the importance of faithfulness?

The **parable of the talents**.

Matt 25:14-30 (NASB) *"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves, and entrusted his possessions to them.*

15 *And to one he gave **five talents**, to another, **two**, and to another, **one**, **EACH ACCORDING TO HIS OWN ABILITY**; and he went on his journey.*

16 *Immediately the one who had received the **five talents** went and **traded** with them, and **gained five more talents**.*

17 *In the same manner the one who had received the **two talents** gained **two more**.*

18 *But he who received the **one talent** went away and dug in the ground, and **hid** his master's money (an act of cowardice).*

19 *Now after a long time the **master** of those slaves came and **settled accounts** with them.*

20 *And the one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I have gained five more talents.'*

21 *His master said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful slave**; you were **faithful with a few things**, I will put you in charge of **many things**, **ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR MASTER.**'*

22 *The one also who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted to me two talents; see, I have gained two more talents.'*

23 *His master said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful slave**; you were **faithful with a few things**, I will put you in charge of many things; **ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR MASTER.**'*

24 *And the one also who had received the **one talent** came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed.*

25 *'And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.'*

26 *But his master answered and said to him, '**You wicked, lazy slave**, you knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I scattered no seed.*

27 *'Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest.*

28 *'Therefore **take away the talent from him**, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'*

29 *For to **everyone who has shall more be given**, and he shall have an **abundance**; but from the one who **does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away**.*

30 *And **cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"*

Each were given talents **according to their OWN ABILITY**. God never asks us to do what is beyond our ability. That would be unfair and unjust. He might ask us to do something which we think we cannot do, but He knows the **hidden potential** in each one of us, which simply needs to be developed.

We all have some God-given talent, no matter how small, that we can use for the Lord. God expects these **talents to grow, develop and even double** in our Christian lives.

Notice that the one who is faithful with his two talents receives an **equal reward** as the one who is faithful with his five talents.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that your one little talent is insignificant and no-one will miss it if it is not

used.

Jesus rebuked such a person for his laziness and lack of faithfulness.

Jesus also said that the one who does not use his talents for the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness.

God expects us to be **fruit bearing** Christians.

We should all put in our very best efforts to work for the kingdom of God, daily laboring to one day hear the Master say, *"Well done, good and faithful slave..."*

5. What do we learn from the parable of the ten virgins?

That we must **live for Jesus today**, obeying His commands, as if He was **coming back tomorrow**.

Matt 25:1-13 (NASB) *"Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to **ten virgins**, who took their **lamps**, and went out to **meet the bridegroom** (Jesus).*

2 *And **five** of them were **foolish**, and **five** were **prudent** (wise).*

3 *For when the **foolish** took their **lamps**, they **took no** (extra) **oil with them**.*

4 *but the **prudent** took **oil in flasks** along with their lamps.*

5 *Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.*

6 *But at **midnight** there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'*

7 *Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps.*

8 *And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'*

9 *But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'*

10 *And while they were going away to make the purchase, **the bridegroom came**, and those who were **ready went in** with him to the wedding feast; and the **door was shut**.*

11 *And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open up for us.'*

12 *But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, **I do not know you**.'*

13 ***Be on the ALERT then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.**' "*

Oil is a type of the **anointing** of the Holy Spirit. Many churches have denied the power of the Holy Spirit, and many Pentecostal Christians **spend so little time in prayer** that they don't have much more of the Holy Spirit.

Christ's ministry and the **ministry of the disciples** in Acts was accomplished by the **power** and anointing of the **Holy Spirit** working through dedicated men of God.

Without that **anointing** we are unable to be effective for Christ.

Luke 24:49 (NASB) *"...and behold, I am sending forth the promise of my Father upon you (ie. the Holy Spirit); but you are to stay in the city (Jerusalem) until you are clothed with **power** from on high."*

Acts 1:8a (NASB) *"...but you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses..."*

For what purpose does God anoint us with the power of the Holy Spirit? So we can experience goose-bumps on goose-bumps. No! So we can become an effective **witness** for Jesus Christ.

Eph 5:18 (NASB) *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, **but be filled with the Spirit.**"*

18 (Williams) *"... but **ever be filled** with the spirit."*

These scriptures are **commands** - not optional.

1 Thess 5:17 (NASB) *"Pray without ceasing."*

17 (Amplified) *"Be unceasing in prayer - praying perseveringly."*

17 (Goodspeed) *"Never give up praying."*

Jesus will return at an hour that we **do not expect** him to. No one expects visitors at midnight - do they? When He comes, those with **no oil** are going to try and made a last minute rushed purchase at the dealer. Only those ready will go into the marriage supper of the lamb and the **door will be SHUT**. Jesus said that he did not know those who had no extra oil and were void of the Holy Spirit. The more **actively involved** we are in God's work, the more we will **seek His presence and power in prayer** to fulfill that ministry, and consequently the more of the Holy Spirit we will have in our lives. Therefore we are to be vigilant, on the alert, full of the Holy Spirit and busy about the Master's business, for we do not know the hour when He is coming.

6. What do we learn from the parable of the sheep and the goats?

That the only way to get to heaven is to take somebody with you (naturally you must be born again first). **Matt 25:31-46 (NASB)** *"But when the **Son of Man comes in His glory**, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.*

32 *And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the **SHEEP from the GOATS**;*

33 *and He will put the **sheep on His right**, and the **goats on the left**.*

34 *Then the King will say to those on His **right**, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**.*

35 *'For I was **hungry**, and you gave Me something to eat; I was **thirsty**, and you gave Me drink; I was a **stranger**, and you invited Me in;*

36 ***naked**, and you clothed Me; I was **sick**, and you visited Me; I was in **prison**, and you came to Me.'*

37 *Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink?*

38 *'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe you?*

39 *'And when did we see You sick, or in prison and come to You?'*

40 *And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, **to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.**'*

41 *The He will also say to those on His **left**, '**Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels**;*

42 *for I was **hungry**, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was **thirsty**, and you gave Me nothing to drink;*

43 *I was a **stranger**, and you did not invite Me in; **naked**, and you did not clothe Me; **sick**, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'*

44 *Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'*

45 *Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, **to the extent that you DID NOT DO IT to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.**'*

46 *And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life!"*

What we are doing in **active service** for the King, by doing it to even the least person in God's kingdom, it is as though we did it to Jesus. To those who are doing nothing for the least of Jesus' people, it is as though they did not help Jesus in need. Their judgment is one of eternal punishment - just for doing nothing.

7. Who will be the greatest disciple in the kingdom of heaven?

One who **humbles himself** as a child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. It's childlike qualities of exhibiting trust, openness, and eagerness to learn that constitute greatness.

Matt 18:1-4 (NASB) *"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, '**who then is greatest in the kingdom***

of heaven?'

*2 And He called a **child** to Himself and set him before them,*

*3 and said, 'Truly I say to you, **unless you are converted and become like children**, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

*4 Whoever then **humbles himself** as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*

8. What do we learn from Christ's teaching in *Luke 9:57-62*?

3 things:

i) *57-58 "And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him, 'I will follow You wherever You go.'*

58 And Jesus said to him, 'The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.' "

Are we prepared, if necessary, to give up our possessions and **follow the Son of Man wherever He leads**. Some places where Jesus went, even the animals had better accommodation than Him.

ii) *59-60 "And He said to another, 'Follow Me.' But he said, 'Permit me first to go and bury my father.'*

*60 But He said to him, 'Allow the (spiritually) dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, **go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.**' "*

Don't make any **excuses** as to why you can't follow Jesus today. Just go out and do what He has told you to do.

iii) *61-62 "And another also said, 'I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.'*

*62 But Jesus said to him, '**no one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**' "*

Remember Lots wife. She looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. After hearing this story from his Sunday school teacher, the little boy responded, "Teacher! Teacher! My mommy also looked back while she was driving her car the other day, and you know what? She turned into a lamppost!"

9. What do we learn from Christ's teaching of calculating the cost before we build a tower?

*Luke 14:28 (NASB) "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not **first sit down and calculate the cost**, to see if he has enough to complete it?"*

Don't ever commit yourself to do something if you're not 100% sure you will do it and carry it through to the end.

If you are over-committed just say, "I am sorry, I would love to help you, but I'm just too busy."

Note: This does not excuse us from our Kingdom obligations. We must all play our part in extending the Kingdom of God.

*Luke 14:34-35 (NASB) "Therefore, **salt** is good; but if even **salt has become tasteless**, with what will it be seasoned?"*

*35 **It is useless** either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is **thrown out**. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.' "*

Christians are to be the **salt of the earth**.

Salt had **2 essential qualities** in Bible days.

i) It **preserved**.

ii) It **flavored**.

We are to **preserve** this world from being altogether corrupt on our knees **in prayer** and **flavor** it **with the Gospel**.

When a Christian stops performing these essential duties, he's grown cold in heart, lost his saltiness, and is not fit for God or man.

Christians must **persevere** in doing what **Jesus commanded** - **till the end**.

10. What did Jesus teach his disciples by washing their feet?

John 13:14-17 (NASB) *"If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, **washed your feet**, you also ought to **wash one another's feet**.*

15 *For I gave you an **example** that you also should do as I did to you.*

16 *Truly, truly, I say to you, a **slave is not greater than his master**; neither is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.*

17 *If you know these things, you are **blessed if you DO them.**' "*

Jesus set and **example** for us to follow. If the Master could **humble Himself** to perform such a **lowly task**, then we too must never think that any task we are asked to do for the kingdom is below our dignity.

Have you ever tried washing someone else's feet?

I once attended a convention where washing the disciples feet was preached on. They had no facilities to wash feet, so the speaker suggested that those who felt they needed to humble themselves before God go and kiss someone's feet. A senior minister came and asked if may kiss my feet. I stuck my foot out and he kissed it. For me it was so embarrassing. I left there feeling I was the one who experienced the lesson of humbling myself before the Lord.

11. Fishers of Men promotion. Hand out application forms. Students to fill them in and hand them back tonight.

HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 10

1. Memorize **James 2:14** as found in point 2 of this lecture.
2. Look at your life as far as **fruit bearing** is concerned. If you are not bearing fruit, then start working on that today.
3. Look at your life as far as **faithfulness** is concerned. If you have not been faithful to your local church and it's ministry team then make the necessary adjustments.
4. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on your notes so that these truths can register on your spirit man and as preparation for a true or false test next week.