

The 8th Day Message

INSPIRATION FOR APRIL 2011

*And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, **"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.** For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. **So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**" (Luke 14: 25-35 KJV)

In these verses Jesus is basically saying that if we don't put Him and the Kingdom of God first and foremost in our lives, we cannot be His disciples! Keeping that in mind, how many of us will be saved in our present lifestyles? There's so many of us Christians *saying* that we are Christians simply because we go to church on Saturday or Sunday, but what about our lifestyles? How many of us are living sacrificial lives? How many of us are saying to ourselves: "I want to do this or am tempted to do that, but I will deny myself of this or that for the sake of the kingdom, and so that I may be sure to be saved, and meet Jesus in peace when He comes?"

Today, the people of the world only do what pleases them, whether it is good or virtuous or lawful or not! And, guess what, Christians are guilty of doing the exact same things. Oh fellow Christians, when will we deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Jesus? Why must we fool ourselves into believing that as long as we name the name of Christ, and talk about Him, and sing about Him, and tell others about Him, that we will be okay. But remember Jesus said that not everyone who says "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who *DO* the will of His Father will make it in. (Matthew 7: 21) We cannot do our own thing and do the will of the Father as well! This means that we cannot live to please ourselves and our Father at the same time.

Having sex outside of marriage is living for self, not for our Father. Dating people, who are enemies of God and the gospel, is living for self and not for our Father! Divorcing and remarrying someone else, or divorcing and dating, is living for self, not for our Father. Marrying someone who is not the same religion as yourself--being unequally yoked--is living for self, and not for our Father. Being married multiple times after divorcing several times is living for self, and not for our Father. Staying single so that you can have as many sex partners as you wish is living for self and not for our Father.

Using your tithe and offerings for something else other than giving it to your local church and to ministry, is living for self, not for our Father. Doing work on Sabbath that cannot be considered “doing good to others” in God’s sight, is living for self and not for our Father. Not caring for the poor and needy among you—whether in your own congregation or community—is living for self not for our Father. I’m sure that you can add to this list of selfish acts.

“What must I do to be saved?” Each one of us must pause for a minute—or two—to answer this question for ourselves, if we are serious about making heaven our eternal home and meeting Jesus in peace. I trust that we will make haste to answer it, since the next hour or day has not been promised us. We must make our choice *today*, and be earnest in our actions to save our own souls from eternal ruin.

*Source Reference: Bible verses taken from www.audio-bible.com
(Words of Jesus in Pink)

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