I. Slide 1 Announce:
   A. Slide 2,3 Andrew P - Storm. VBS.
   B. Slide 4 Baby Dedication 2nd - Gilbert/Kristen Vela. [Kyla/Kaden]
      1. Kenna Genay (9) & Kynslee Lenore (3)...and it is her birthday today.
   C. Slide 5 Baby Dedication 3rd - Ivy Zamora. Desmond Justin Louis Zamora. [Emmitt/Julius]
      1. Ivy’s husband Justin went to be w/the Lord last April 2015 when Ivy was pregnt w/Desmond
   D. Slide 6 Married Couples Retreat - Guest Speakers Rob/Denise Salvato/CCVista.
      1. Get signed up as we are going to open this up to CCVista soon. Limited space
   E. Slide 7 Thrive - Starts Today, 3rd, Agape. Foundation class for new/old believers. What is the Church?
   F. Prayer: God You are truly caring & concerned for us. We are seen & known by You. We are valued & treasured by You.

II. Slide X INTRO: Get A Life He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.
   A. This ch has been looking at instructions to 3 kinds of disciples, each group living at a different time. 12 Apostles (1-15). Trib Disciples (16-23). All/anytime period (24-42).
      1. Remember, this ch’s theme isn’t sonship but discipleship:
         We become his sons/daughters thru faith in Christ.
         We are His disciples as we faithfully follow Him & obey His will.
      2. Sonship doesn’t change, discipleship does...as we walk w/Christ.
   B. This chapter gives us deep insight into discipleship and helps us see ourselves as kingdom citizens who have power but who humble ourselves to serve.
   C. Note these features of Jesus’ instructions:
      1. Disciples were to be dependent on God, not on their own wealth or possessions, for necessities (8-11).
      2. Disciples were to give all men the freedom to accept or reject them and their Lord (12-15).
      3. Disciples were to expect and to endure persecution from those who rejected and hated their Lord (16-26). Now this week we’ll see...
4. Disciples are to remember their **great value** to God the Father, and do His will without fear of men (27-33).

5. Disciples are to **expect conflict**, even in their own homes. In everything, Jesus is to be put first, and pain is to be borne, just as Jesus bore the pain of His cross (34-39).

6. Disciples could know they brought great gifts to men, who would be **rewarded** for their responses to the Father and His children (40-42).

D. Discipleship in Jesus’ time was the basic way Jewish leaders were trained. They **lived with** their master, and learned by observing - then **imitating** him. After their years of training were complete the **disciple** could be recognized as a **teacher**...& now train others

1. While **disciple** is used in several ways in the Gospels and in Acts, its basic meaning is that of **learning to be like one’s teacher**.

2. Lk.6:40 ESV A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is **fully trained** will be like his teacher.

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III. SlideX **PROTECTION** (27-33) [Protection. Privilege. Promise. Practice]

A. Their Father was truly concerned for them and aware of their circumstances.

B. (27) Tell out what your Master tells you. **Receive a message from God in your quiet meditation, then make it known everywhere.**

1. Here it like a **whisper** in your ear, then sound it forth **like the town gossip**.

C. Isaiah gives us a beautiful **pattern to follow** from the **Messiah** in 50:4,5 [what?] The Lord God has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to **speak** a word in season to him who is weary. [How?] He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear. To **hear** as the learned. The Lord God has opened My ear; [result?] and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. [Messianic] **HEAR, SPEAK, OBEY**

1. He had a **ready tongue**, but 1st an open ear.

2. Here are early morning **vigils** before God…to receive instruction.

   a) Vigil - **a period of keeping awake during the time usually spent asleep, especially to keep watch or pray.** [From the word **watchfulness, awake, alert**]

   b) Here is where Spurgeon named his famous devotional, **Morning by Morning**.

3. Jesus spoke of this in the **Lord’s Prayer** regarding our daily diet (daily bread).
4. Jesus also set the example for us in taking time Himself to pray & seek God.

5. When our ears are open, there will be more opportunities to open our lips.
   a) **Listen before we speak & listen more than we speak.**

D. (28) People may kill your body, but they cannot touch your soul. But this is not a flippant statement...as God cares for both your body and soul (see vs.30).

   1. There is no cure for the fear of man like the fear of God.
   2. Let goods & kindred go, this mortal life also; The body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever. **Martin Luther, A Mighty Fortress**

E. (29-31) If each hair is valued, what must our heads be worth? What must our bodies be worth? What must our souls be worth?

   1. No need to fear when God is exercising such wonderful care over us.

F. (32) To confess Him means much more than to make a statement w/the lips. It also means to back up that statement w/one’s life.

   1. It is easy to say, Jesus Christ is Lord, it’s quite another to surrender to Him & obey His will. The walk & the talk must go together.
   2. Let us never blush to own Him in all companies.

G. (33) Of the original 12 Apostles, only 1, fell into this latter category, Judas Iscariot.

IV. SlideX PRIVILEGE (34-38) [Protection. Privilege. Promise. Practice]

A. (34) In other passages, Jesus is said to bring peace (Is 9:6, Lk 2:14, Acts 10:36).

   1. There, peace is applied to the restored relationship Jesus brings between God and man, and to the ultimate peace He brings to creation when His messianic work is finished, after His 2nd coming & millennial reign.
   2. In His first coming He brings division, since His call to the kingdom of God is accepted by some and rejected by others.

B. While some receive Jesus’ message eagerly & w/great joy, others reject it with hostility.

   1. Jesus’ kingdom message inherently brings strife and conflict.
   2. The context may indicate persecution and martyrdom, but interpersonal discord also results turning a person’s family against him or her.
C. In vs.37 we show *The Priority* of our love for Christ as we place Him even above our families. In vs.38 we show *The Proof* of our love for Christ as we are to take up our cross and follow Him.

D. (37) *Love* is the central theme of Jesus’ moral exhortation (greatest cmd...loving God/neighbor) *However*, familial devotion should not *supersede* devotion to Christ.

1. Some who follow Christ are *hated* by their family members *which may be* part of their *cost of discipleship*.

E. (38) A true disciple must *take his cross* and follow Jesus.

1. He must be willing to *face/embrace/identify* with Jesus’ kingdom message, to the point of being willing to *not only family hatred, but also death*, like a criminal *carrying his cross* to his own execution.
   a) In the Roman Empire a convicted criminal, when taken to be crucified, was *forced* to carry his own cross. [crucifixion was reserved for *criminals, foreigners, & slaves*]

   (1) *The condemned person had to carry his or her own cross* (usually, just *the cross beam* which was attached to the upright portion of the cross at the crucifixion site).
   b) *This showed publicly* that he was *then under* and *submissive* to the rule he had been opposing.

2. *Likewise* Jesus’ disciples must demonstrate their *submission* to the One against whom they had rebelled. Jesus’ followers were admitting His right over their lives.
   a) In so doing one would *find his life* in return for having *given it up* to Jesus Christ.
   b) *Each must take up his own cross. He see’s none exempt from this process.*
   c) Not *make up* your own cross, *but take up* your own personal custom cross... *chosen, made, shaped, contoured, fitted* for *you by Christ.*

   (1) *It will not take us up...we must take it up...daily...and follow Him.*

V. SlideX PROMISE (39) [*Protection. Privilege. Promise. Practice*]

A. (39) The path Jesus and His followers would travel would be a road of *sorrow and suffering*. But in so *losing* one’s life, one would *truly find a better life.*
1. Those who do not take up their cross in discipleship - thereby avoiding death - will lose their lives at the time of judgment.

2. To get a life...w/Him. You need to lose a life...your own/your old man.

3. There is only 2 alternatives: spare your life or sacrifice your life. (no middle ground)
   a) Don’t gain the temporal at the expense of the eternal.

VI. SlideX PRACTICE (40-42) [Protection. Privilege. Promise. Practice]

A. These are more benefits of true discipleship. 1st we saw...
   1. We will be honored by the Son in the presence of the Father (32,33)
   2. We will fully gain one’s life (39) and now...
   3. We will also be given great rewards (40-42)

B. (42) One of these little ones - An indication of status, not age. Thus little ones refers to disciples of Christ.

C. Only a cup of cold water - meaning, the smallest service.
   1. Note the descending climax a prophet, a righteous man, a little one; signifying that however low we come down in our services to those that are Christ’s, all that is done for His sake, and that bears the stamp of love to His awesome name, shall be divinely appreciated and owned and rewarded.

D. Communion: