

Get A Life

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2,3 Andrew P - Storm. VBS.
- B. Slide4 Baby Dedication 2nd - Gilbert/Kristen Vela. [Kyla/Kaden]
 - 1. **Kenna Genay** (9) & **Kynslee Lenore** (3)...*and it is her birthday today.*
- C. Slide5 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. Slide6 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. Slide7 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. SlideX 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.*

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**: