

Title: Meaning of Discipleship

Text: Luke 9:18-27

Will you take your Bibles, please, and turn to Luke chapter 9, <sup>beginning</sup> ~~We are~~ at Verse 18. And our subject: THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP. We are not just interested in decisions. We are, also, interested in discipleship. It is easy to sign the dotted line and to say YES. Yet, not to understand the commitment that is involved. And not to ever become a disciple of Christ. There are multitudes of people who say they are christians, but give little evidence of it. We have all met them. We have all seen them. We have all heard about them. And a lot of people believe the church is filled with hypocrites. That doesn't bother me at all. That is a true statement.

In truth every last person who attends First Baptist is a hypocrite.. AMEN!...I notice you are a little weak in your responses to that...

The Bible teaches that, you know. And we are not worried about that at all. And if somebody gives you that excuse.."I don't want to go to that church. It is full of hypocrites." Well, just tell them that one more willn't make any difference.....

Now, people don't seem to understand that folks who are in church are people who have come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour; and they are trying to follow Him. But, they are not perfect, except in their POSITION.

Now, my standing before God is absolutely perfect. According to the Bible every sin that I have ever committed or could think of committing in the future has already been paid for. That is the wonderful news of the Gospel. You talk about liberate...freedom...what a wonderful message it is...And if Jesus has set you free, you are free indeed...AMEN?

I am free, totally, from the consequence of sin, death, and hell. And not because of my performance. But, because of my faith in Jesus Christ.

But, there is just one little problem. There are a lot of people who say they believe in Jesus Christ. But they are confused about one of two things,

One, who Jesus really is. Because we have watered down Jesus in our culture. Or, two, we are a little bit confused as to what He wants from us, And so we all want to get on the band wagon and make sure we have a ticket to heaven. But, whether or not we are really following Jesus remains to be seen. And time often proves whether or not we are true disciples. Or, we have simply made an emotional commitment because we want to be in on it.

<sup>Note</sup>  
~~Not~~ in Luke chapter 9, Luke gives to us the meaning of discipleship.

He has just feed the five thousand. He has just given the disciples a deminstration of the kind of compassion that He wants Christians to feel for the whole world. Now, we are at chapter 9 verse 18. According to most accounts of this story, which are in the Gospels, a lot takes place before verse 18. Luke places it here in his account. But, there is alot that the other Gospels refer to. But let's read it. (READ LUKE 9:18-27)

JOIN ME, PLEASE, IN A MOMENT OF PRAYER

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If you like to follow along by way of an outline, we are going to talk about the COMMITMENT OF DISCIPLESHIP...Then we will deal with the CONDITIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP...And then finally look at THE CONSEQUENCES OF Discipleship

(1) In terms of the CONDISTIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP Which you find in verses 18 to 22, there are really two issues. I don't know if you have ever made a commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. But there are really two things involved.

(1) One, you must believe in the true identity of Jesus Christ. That is what Jesus make real clear to His own disciples. "WHO DO <sup>The MULTITUDES</sup> SAY THAT I AM?"

Now, there were many reasons that the crowds gave as TO WHO HE IS. Many kinds of people they suggested that He might be. Perhaps John the Baptist. Or, Elijah. Or, one of the old prophets had arisen again. He sounds like them. He talks like them. His message is like them.

But, Jesus said, "WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?" And this second question, WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM? emphasizes that it must be a personal commitment on our part.

The word "you" in the Greek grammar is in what we call the "in.fad.ic position. It is as though Jesus looked at them stright in the eyes, after all their opinions, and says, "BUT, WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

John, who do you say that I am? Mary, who do you say that I am? Sir, who do you say that I am?

The most important thing to get strightened out in your commitment to Jesus Christ is that you must believe in the true identity of Christ.

Peter said, "The Christ, or the Messiah, of God."

In Matthews account, Jesus said to Peter, "Flesh and blood has not revealed that to you. But my Father who is in heaven."

Jesus went on to say, "that upon this rock, namely the confession of Peter concerning the identity of Jesus, I will build my church." <sup>Deen Friend</sup> No one is a christian who hasn't believed in the true identity of Jesus Christ. A lot of people claim faith in a Jesus of sorts. But, they do not believe in the Jesus of the Bible. The Bible says that "if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved."

The Bible says that God "has highly exalted Him. And given Him a name, ~~a character~~, that is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow. And every tongue shall confess that He is Lord."

The Bible is clear that we should bow the knee and worship no one but God, himself. Yet, the Bible invites and the Father says to the angels of heaven, WORSHIP HIM. MY SON.

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST? The Bible teaches that He is non other than the ~~chosen one of God. The one who became man.~~ <sup>God Himself</sup> God became man. God become flesh. And dwelt among us. and we beheld His glory. John says, "the glory as the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth."

Make sure <sup>Deen Friend</sup> you understand that a commitment to be a disciple of Christ, is belief in the true identity of Jesus Christ. He is the God-man and our saviour.

I find this very interesting. This question in this whole discussion. Because according to other Gospel accounts, you can check Matthew and Mark, it happened at Caesarea Philippi. Now Caesarea, Caesar, Philippi or Philip. It is named after a Caesar. But, its ~~name~~ <sup>original name was</sup> today ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> BON.TI.US. This town is the center or was the center of the worship of the Greek God, PAN. Which indicates ALL. But I find this interesting because this town was located at the foot of Mt. Herman. And I am told that even today there are shins engraved in the rocks to this god Pan. And it was there in the midst of that Idolatry that Jesus said, WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

The world has a lot of religious views. But, I ask you, "Do you know who Jesus is?" Real commitment to discipleship is based on the true identity of Christ.

(2) <sup>Issue</sup> <sup>Just Committed</sup> A second ~~thing~~ we learn from these verses in verses 21 and 22 is that you must believe ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> absolute necessity of His death and resurrection.

People often say to me, "I am trying to follow what Jesus did and said." Hay! Lots of luck. I think you will fail. It is very hard to pattern your life after Jesus. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to even be "christ. like!" It is not our natural tendency to act and do and think like Jesus. But, a lot of people believe that if you simply try your best to live like Jesus that somehow that is what it means to be a Christian.

And so, therefore, they are insulted if anyone suggests that they are not a Christian when you have been trying so hard to be like Jesus.

According to the Bible you must believe in the absolute necessity of the Death and resurrection of Jesus.

It is not to underestimate the value of His life. That he lived on earth, which is certainly <sup>a</sup> moral example to us all. But, the true gospel is not centered in that. According to the Bible, in I Cor 15, the Gospel is centered in the death of Jesus Christ for our sins. That He was buried. And that on the third day he arose again from the dead. And he ascended to His father in heaven. And one day He will come again.

Notice what Jesus said in verse 22. After warning them not to tell anyone, Obviously, before His death and resurrection there would be a lot of confusion. Wait until those facts are known, Then spread it all over the world,

But in Verse 22 He says, "The son of man must suffer." It was not a creative alternative. <sup>Jesus</sup> He wasn't a victim of circumstances. It was under a divine plan that the Son of God suffer. And be "rejected by the religious leaders." All three of those groups: elders, chief priests and scribes form the Sanhedrian. The highest political body in Israel. Their official charge against <sup>Jesus</sup> ~~him~~ was blaspheming. They said that He made himself equal with God. WHICH IS TRUE. They accused Him of blaspheming. And they rejected Him. Now, the Bible says that He was killed and rised the thrid day out of necessity. <sup>it says</sup> "The Son of man must suffer. He must die! And must be raised from the dead. That is so important.

Turn to John chapter 3. The Gospel of John chapter 3. Some of these things Christians accept and have throughout church history. It is amazing how with a little turn of events or a little twisting of the words, you can confuse a whole <sup>generation</sup> ~~culture~~ on what it means to be a <sup>christian</sup> ~~disciple~~. All the disciples of Christ...all disciples...have two things true of them.

One, they believe in the true identity of Christ. And two, they believe in the absolute necessity of the death and resurrection of Christ. All ture disciples must believe that.

The number one common denominator of all false religions, cults, and ISM's is the denial of the true identity of Jesus Christ. They might <sup>speech</sup> ~~say~~ much of Jesus. But they do not speak of the Jesus of the Bible.

When we look at the death and reaccurrection we are face with a passage like John 3:14. Look at what Jesus said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must". That is what Jesus said. It is necessary "that the son of man be lifted up." WHY? "that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life." "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shouldnot perish, but have eternal life." "For God did not send the Son into the World to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."

Turn over to chapter 10, please. Over and over again, the Bible tells us that Jesus must die for our sins. He was under divine direction and authority.

His mission in coming into the world is to die for our sins.

John chapter 10 verse 11: "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." Christ intended to die for us.

Vs 15.."even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."

This was said before it happened. Not after.

Vs 17.."For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again." There is the resurrection.

You say, "Well they did it to him." Look at Vs 18.."No one has taken it way from Me, but I lay it down on my own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again."

You say, "Who raised Jesus from the dead?" The Bible in Ephesians 1 says "God, the father, raised him from the dead." The Bible in John 10:18 says that Jesus raised himself from the dead." And the Bible says in Roamans 8:11 that the Spirit raised Jesus from the dead.

Dear friends, you cannot separate the persons of the God-Head. It is one God. And they were all involved in the mighty miracle of the death and resurrection of Christ. THE GOSPEL IS THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

And that is so important. Come back, again, to Luke chapter 9

So, Jesus indicates that you must believe this. The absolute necessity of his death and resurrection in order to be a ~~committed~~ disciple of Christ.

Now, we are ready for Vs 23, which is the key verse in all the teaching of Jesus about what it means to be a disciple. He gives three conditions of discipleship in this verse. People have read this verse, many many times. And the longer you are a christain the more you are aware that there is some thing about this verse that we just never seem to get awholed off. You can study it. You can read it. You can try to interpret it. But the longer you look at it the more you are aware that there are some deminstions of discipleship taught by Jesus that a lot of us simply do not face., or want to face. So, I'm asking you to face the issue

2 A) WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF DISCIPLESHIP? *according to Jesus* What are those requirements?  
Three of Them.

(1B) Number one, ~~with~~ separation from selfish desires. Jesus said, "You must deny yourself."

You know, I read that. And this is what happened in my office. This was a few weeks ago when I started preparing. I had all my books laid out. And I read the passage over and over again. I try to really get it into my heart. So I was reading this passage. And I came to that little phrase "let him deny himself." And I said WOW! How does that related to all that we are hearing in this day and age about "self-worthy." <sup>Think about it</sup> Let him deny himself. Do you know what that means? It means "kiss yourself good-bye."

How many people even want to study that? In this culture, you tell me.. How many people want to seriously look at that? If Jesus were here this morning, and you would say..OH, I really want to follow you. And he would look you in the eye and say, "O.K. deny yourself completely."

I want you to totally separate yourself from every selfish desire in your life. Then you can come and follow me.

No wonder the Bible says that many people upon hearing these sayings "walked with him no more." They said, that that is too hard. That is too difficult. Separation from selfish desires. Let him deny himself.

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? Let me give you the following possibilities. (1) One, He definitely is talking about material ~~prosperity~~ <sup>prosperity</sup>. Oh, is that a selfish desire of our hearts? Is that not what self wants? I want to be materially prosperous. Yet, Jesus himself said, "Do not lay up treasures on earth, but lay them up in heaven." We know a lot of about this.

Deny yourself? That does mean issues of material prosperity. There is no doubt about it.

(2) What else might be involved. Physical health. In our commitment to health and physical fitness....And I believe if this old bod needs help, we ought to help it, right? Because the older you get things begin to sag..and the body doesn't ran as fast. And it doesn't move as quickly. Do you know what I mean? First the body goes...then the mind...You finished. Do you know what I mean. It is just a down hill deal. So, let's work hard. Let's keep it in shape. But let me tell you something...

To all you physical health freaks. If you are committed to that in your life, it is a hindrance to your commitment to Jesus Christ when it takes the place of Him. Keep your body in shape in order to serve God with all of your heart. But if you are committed to that, then you don't understand the Gospel. The Bible speaks about suffering and death and about the possibility of losing your life. It speaks about the body decaying. But don't worry about it. It says that the suffering of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed to us.

And yet, people keep pushing and pushing and driving to some how look better, feel better. And my friends what good does it profit a man if all of that happens to you and yet, you lose your soul. The Bible says that you do not know the day that you will die. But God does. And it is appointed unto all of us to once to die. And after that the judgment. You want to deny yourself in order to follow Christ. It may mean material prosperity. It may mean physical health.

(3) And it also means sexual indulgence according to Ephesians. The Bible says that you must lay aside all kinds of immorality. If you want to follow Christ, you must get rid of all sexual immorality. It is very powerful according to Ephesians 4 and 5. How can we say that we are disciples if that is what we are committed to. There are a lot of things that this can mean. Jesus simply said to deny yourself. Separate totally from selfish desires. To submit to His will and to his desire. ARE WE DISCIPLES?

(2B) The Second thing according to Luke 9:23 is to take up your cross daily. Every day take up your cross.

Now, some people have the idea that this is some kind of burden to bear. And they say, "You know, I am bearing my cross. I have a sore toe. And I have been bearing it for several years."

That is not the cross. You do not take up the cross in the sense of a heavy burden or load. That is not the meaning at all.

When ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> ~~times~~ <sup>times</sup> take up the cross in the days of Jesus it was a one way ticket. It was going out to be crucified. So, what are we talking about here in discipleship?



We are talking about the sacrifice of all personal goals in our life. and submitting ourselves totally to Jesus Christ. Take up your cross daily. Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I ~~live~~ <sup>live</sup> by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered himself up for me."

He wrote in chapter 6 verses 14 of Galatians, "But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." ~~Now, here is:~~ "through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

I wonder if we understand this? What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ. Separation from all selfish desire..And sacrifice of all personal goals...And I think: "Hay! you are hitting a little hard."

You know, when ever I study God's Word and the teaching starts to hit hard, do you know what I think? It is almost automatic. I think to myself.."THERE MUST BE ANOTHER INTERPRETATION.

So, I pick up another book and hope that some other commentator will relieve me from the truth which is obviouse. And make it so. complex that I can run away from it.

Maybe I can come up with 7 views as to what it means to take up my cross daily. If I did that, I along with every Bible teacher who ever teaches this passage <sup>and Trick to do that</sup> would be lieing through our teeth. Every body knows what it means. Oh, we may try to run away from it. But, it means death to what you have planned in your life. You kiss that good by. It is no more. You stop planning your tomorrows without God's direction. You are under His authority.

It might mean position or authority. You want to number one is somebodyies company or somebodyies eyes. The Bible teaches over and over again to get that out off your heart and be a servant. It may be popularity or fame. And the Bible tells us that we are sinners and we ought to humble ourselves befor the Lord and express gradmity to the Lord that He even wants to use us. Get those attitudes of arrogance and pride out of our life.

You say, "well, I want to be a success." A success in my business in my life. I believe in setting goals.....SO DO I.

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But, they had better be the goals of almighty God, if you want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. That is what He said. It is not my opinion. That verse is a lot stronger than anything I can say about it.

Take up your cross every day. It means getting up in the morning and kissing all your plans good-bye. And saying, "God I don't want to look at anything in my life. I don't want to plan any goal without seeking your will and direction. And then laying it at your feet and saying and with all your heart and mind and soul, "Lord, what would you have me do." "Lord, not my will but thine be done."

WHERE ARE THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST? John said, "He must increase, I must decrease."

Paul said, "If any man boast, boast in the Lord." Paul said, Whether we eat or we drink, whatever we do, do all to the glory of God."

I set goals in my life. And so do you. Things I want to see done. And some times the lack of setting a goal is a goal in and of itself. You are making a goal to do nothing. And usually we achieve that one. We all set goals. But I wonder how many of us get on our knees before God and say, "God I don't want to do anything in my life. I don't want to plan anything for my future, without knowing your will." Take up your cross daily.

(3) And the third condition of discipleship is submission to a Godly life style. FOLLOW ME. It is in the present tense. Keep on following me. Follow me all the time.

How can I follow Jesus, if I never read about what He did or said? That involves a commitment to look into His word, to obey His word, step by step to run my life according to what God said. I want to know what Jesus would ~~say~~ <sup>do</sup> in this situation, in that situation. And His commandments, which are few by the way, I will follow them. <sup>They</sup> There is joy in serving Jesus.

Dear friends, the more you are committed to Christ, greater will be the inter peace in your life. Did you know that? And the less committed you are to Christ, and the more committed you are to your personal achievements and goals, the greater will be frustration in your heart.

Dear friends, what are we living for? Are we disciples of Christ?

If any man will come after me, Jesus said, let him deny himself, take up his cross, daily, and follow me.

(3A) Now, let's come to the consequences of <sup>discipleship</sup> such decisions. In verses 24 to 27, our Lord teaches that it effects four issues. Here they are.

(1B) Number one, saving your life. Who doesn't want to save his life. And yet if I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, according to Jesus, I stop trying to be protective of myself. I get rid of that junk.

Look at what it says in Vs 24..These are the words of Jesus..."For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it."

Boy, we can be so protective, can't we? Even as you go to work tomorrow, you are protective of your own interest. Let's narrow it down to the bottom line. Maybe you set at a desk. You could be protective of your own rubber bands and paper clips....AMEN!

That is my stencil...That is my stabler...You took my ruler and I haven't seen it all week...HE WHO SAVES HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT.

Oh, how many application there could be to that. But, the most fundamental one of all is trying to save your own little kingdom, your things, everything about you, and losing your own soul and going to Hell without Christ, Saving your life. That is a serious consequence of discipleship. Disciples have to get rid of that *junk*.

William Barclay said in his commentary, "the christian must realize that he has been given life, not to keep it for himself, but to spend it on others. Not to husband its flame, but to burn himself out for Christ and for men."

Some people say, "Now, wait a minute. You could get too busy and burn out." I want to tell you something. I would love to collapse serving Jesus. I would love to go home to be with my Lord deader than a door nail serving Jesus Christ. Then to be relaxed and have everything this world offers.

Now, I believe in relaxing. And I can do it well. You give me three or four days and I can go to pot real fast. I can kick back and enjoy myself. I believe in doing what you are doing with all your heart. If you are going to rest, let's really sack out. O.K.

I mean if you are going to be a bum, then let's do it with all our <sup>hearts</sup> ~~hearts~~. I know all about that. But, I also know what happens. I mean, there is something about rest and relaxation and all of that that is needed, but it can't go on very long. Especially when you are committed to Jesus Christ. The only purpose of it is to get your old motor going. That is the only pupose of it. It is only to regroup..get a little strength and go again.

And people are worried about getting <sup>burnt</sup> ~~burnt~~ out. Listen, the Bible teaches "My beloved brethren, be ~~ye~~ steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For as much as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." "

*at* It is interesting that the Greek word "Labor" means "to labor to the point of exhaustion." You cannot move another step.

Listen, the Lord will never forget your labor of love that you have shown in ministering to the Saints. Sometimes we run out of gas and say: "Hay! I need a break." Take your break. But do so only to recharge your batteries in order to minister again. To serve the Lord with all of your heart.

One day we are going to look into the eyes of our saviour. And let's pray that we may hear him say: "Well done, thy good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord." Not working like crazy to proove that ~~you~~ are spiritual. But, serving Him because we are disciples of His. And we love Him with all of our hearts. That is so important.

*at* Submission to a godly life style, following him leads to the conclusion that I don't save my life anymore. The Bible says that if you lose your life for Jesus sake, you will save it.

(2 B) A second consequence of discipleship is achieving your goals, which we mentioned a moment ago. Look at Vs 25.."For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?"

Dear friends, suppose you achieve every goal imiginable in your life. What does it profit you if you achieve all of it, but you lose your own soul?

*young people* You know, it is a wonderful goal to want to get married. I love to see ~~young people~~ who just get engaged. They want to get married. You know, the whole goal of There life is to get married ~~of their life is to get married~~

And it seems that they are not really thinking about what will happen next week. Like who is going to pay for the food and the rent and all of that stuff. Some of them do. And those folks are usually boring. But anyway (Ha)

Oh, I just love to talk to <sup>very poor</sup> kids who are so excited about marriage. Man, they can hardly believe it. That is their great goal.

But, I also like to impress upon their hearts that that goal may not be achieved. You see, one of the things that I like to do in my carnality is when we stand over here in the side room with the gentlemen ready to come out, I always say to him: "~~you know~~, just think...I mean the service is going to start here in 5 minutes, but the Lord could come right now." (Ha)

You know something. When I say that I have noticed that the bridegroom never gets excited and says.. "PRAISE THE LORD, I WISH HE WOULD COME."

The last time I did this the bridegroom turned to me and say, "Could you pray and ask him to wait just one hour." (ha)

The point: We all have goals. We all have things we want to do. And the Bible says, "Hay! don't even think about tomorrow." And that is all we are thinking about. <sup>yet</sup> Hay! I know what I am talking about. We all do it.

~~no~~, Some people come to church because it is fairly quiet, except when I shout, and you can think about what you are going to do tomorrow. Now, I know you shouldn't, but you know it goes through your mind.

We are planning everything..what we are going to do next week and next month. And old boy, I have a vacation coming up. AND IT MAY NEVER HAPPEN. But we live our lives on the expectations. And as you know, you sometimes get so turned on about it, and then it really happens and you are sort of disappointed. And you wonder why you were so excited about that.

So, you achieve everything. Folks, nothing can compensat for the lose of your eternal destiny in heaven. NOTHING.....

(39) The third consequence of discipleship is the matter of confessing your faith. This is kind off interesting. Vs 26 says "For whoever is ashamed of Me and my words.

*Another Gospel uses*

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~~Same thing another Gospel says is~~ the word "denie". Whoever denies me and my words. <sup>¶</sup>Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

The opposite of being ashamed and denying the Lord is CONFESSING the Lord. ~~That is clearly presented to us. Especially passages like Matt 10 verses 32-33 and others.~~

Paul said in Romans 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyOne who believes."

Ask yourself..Are you ever ashamed of the Lord? You say, Well, I wouldn't do this knowingly. But there are times when we are embarassed. We don't know why. Maybe we are worried about those folks out there who are not christians and what they will think of us if we get a little excited about the gospel.

I saw a bumper sticker the other day. It read: I ~~go~~<sup>go</sup> bannas over Jesus." I thought ..why not? We go bannas over everything else. Why not Jesus.

I go out to the ball game. I watch how others cheer for the home team. And I look at myself. I act like an idiot. I get so excited because the guy hit the dump little ball to the field. (Ha)

Some guy is running around the bases. He is getting excerise. But, I am just setting there watching. And I get so excited. And I am holling right along with everyone else. And we had nothing to do with it.

Don't you think we could get a little excited about Jeus? Just a little bit, maybe?

Someone is always concerned about claping in church. So, let me say something about clapping. Clapping in church. You know, people clap today for no reason at all. Some people are sleeping and they wake up clapping, you know

Dear friends, clapping can distract you from worshipping the Lord. Did you know that? Because clapping today is so cultural. We clap for everybody., We don't want them to feel bad. So, we clap for everybody. We clap for every song, and all of that.

But, on the other hand. Sometimes I get so moved in my heart that I don't know what <sup>else</sup> to do. And I think Clapping is it. I just love the Lord..Praise God. And I just clap. But, other times it maybe artificial. We need to think about it. Are we worshipping the Lord. Are we giving Him the praise. Are we saying, "Glory to you, God for what just blessed my heart." Or, are we just giving a little encouragement to the one who just performed?

Do you understand what I am saying? You see, I see this and I understand that we are all different. We all come from different backgrounds. And some of you have come from churches where you expect everything to be done quietly. And some of you want a pep rally. And I don't know what the deal is. But, I know this. If in your heart you say, "Glory" and you mean it..PRAISE GOD **CLAP**, I will wait for you and then go on.

Hallelujah...Praise God...Amen...Right on...I don't care what you say.. Just make sure you are worshipping the Lord and not doing it to be seen of men

We all need to be careful. But you see there is something about our generation that preceeded this one and is now infiltrating this one, that wants us to be quiet. Secret service christians. I don't understand that.

Hay, the Bible says that we shouldn't be ashamed of Him. We ought to thank God for the freedom that we have in this country. Don't you believe that?.....Sure you do. Let's proclaim the Gospel. Don't be ashamed of Christ. Oh, I know we need to practice and live what we say we believe. But, dear friends, when the time comes open your mouth and Confess Jesus as your Lord. He is my saviour and I love him with all of my heart. And don't be embarrassed about the Gospel. It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who would believe..

(4B) The final issue and consequences of discipleship in Vs 27 is the matter of understanding your future. Understanding your future. Look at Vs 27.

Jesus said, "I tell you truly, there are some of those standing here who shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

Now, what does that mean? There are <sup>many</sup> ~~basically~~ four viewpoints. *But, let me share my understanding.*

(1 ) Some people say that this is talking about the second coming. There are some men here who will not taste death until the Lord comes again.

Now, folks that is impossible. The people who were listening to Jesus all have passed away. Jesus hasn't come back yet.

(2 ) Secondly, there are those who say, "What He is referring to is the destruction of Jerusalem. That is a possibility. For the kingdom of God and the glory of God and the angels of God and the judgement of God, did come upon the Jewish nation in 70 A.D. And some of them, no doubt, were still alive when the destruction of Jerusalem occurred. There are some of you who will not taste death till you see what this is all about. You will know, in other words, what it means to be a disciple. And there never was a day in Jewish history that people knew what it meant to be a disciple as much as during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. That is a possible view. And many Bible teachers hold that view.

(3 ) Third, it is possible that Jesus is referring to transfiguration. In each of the Gospels the next thing that happens is that Jesus takes Peter, James and John up on top of Mt. Hermon and is transfigured before them. They see His glory as they have never seen it before. What he is doing is telling them HOW they will see him when he comes back again.

So, what he is saying is that there are some of you..namely, Peter, James and John...who will not die until they see what it means to come in the glory of God. That is what a lot of Bible teachers believe.

(4 ) There is a fourth view. There are not too many who hold this view. But, I believe it is a strong view. And that is what ~~he~~ is talking about is His death, resurrection, and ascension.

You see, as you back it up and look at this whole thing. We are told in Vs 22 that Jesus must suffer. He must die. He must be raised again. Make sure you are following Him. And deny yourself, and all of that. And some of you standing here will never taste death until you will see that all that I am telling you will come to pass. As the Kingdom of God will become clear to all of you.



The whole bases upon which anyone gets into that kingdom is the death and resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. You see, He could be referring to disciples who would be there on that occasion. They will see it come.

I find this interesting because at the time of His transfiguration, if you will look down at Vs 31, it says that he spoke of His what? HIS DEPARTURE.. When He is glorified and there is Moses and Elijah, what are they talking about? They are talking about His coming death in Jerusalem.

You say, Pastor, was that a moment of glory? OH, YES...OH, YES...How, many songs in our hymn book speaks about the glory of the death of Jesus Christ. There was no moment in history that was more glorious than the time when God became man and reconciled the entire world through the death of His Son Jesus Christ on the cross. GLORY..BE...TO...HIS...NAME....

Down at the cross where my saviour died..  
Down where for cleansing from sin, I cried...  
There to my heart was the blood applied..  
Glory to His name.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, we see His glory in His death. But we see his full glory three days later when Jesus arose from the dead. You talk about glory. The resurrection of Jesus....The whole N.T. talks about the glory of God that was displayed in that one moment when Jesus came back from the dead. GLORY...

Understanding your future is a consequence of discipleship. For one day, our Lord, who died for our sins and rose again from the dead will come back. And the Bible says HE..WILL ..COME..IN..HIS..GLORY.

Aren't you glad that you are saved?.....AMEN. *If not, you ought*  
~~Let's close in prayer~~ *to be. Jesus desires that all would*  
*come to repentance and salvation. Above everything*  
*else, he wants you to be his disciple.*

*Let's close in prayer*