

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
007 - MONDAY – AUGUST 12, 2024

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Mark 8:31–38 (NKJV) “(31) And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. (32) He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. (33) But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” (34) When He had called the people to *Himself*, with His disciples also, He said to them, “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. (35) For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. (36) For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? (37) Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (38) For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.””

What does Jesus teach here about the cost of following Christ?

The disciples have come to a crucial turning point in their relationship to Jesus. They now know that He is the Messiah. The reader of Mark has known this from the beginning of the book (*Mark 1:1*) and thus has had an advantage over the sometimes stumbling disciples.

THE REQUISITES (The fundamental, conditional, stipulations of discipleship):

1. Denial of personal methods and preferences:

John 21:18 (NKJV) “Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish.”

2. We must keep God’s Law:

Isaiah 8:16 (NKJV) “Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples.”

3. Disciples will emulate Jesus in example, teachings, and life:

Luke 6:46 (NKJV) ““But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

1 John 2:6 (NKJV) “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”

4. Disciples will have a clear discernment as to the source of religious teachings:

John 7:17 (NKJV) “If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority*.”

5. Disciples will have a daily commitment to the journey of Christianity:

Luke 9:23 (NKJV) “Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

6. Disciples will make necessary choices to keep his flesh under the Holy Spirits control:

Galatians 5:16–18 (NKJV) “**(16)** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **(17)** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. **(18)** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

When we are under the Law – This term does not mean under “God’s Law” it means under the law that produces all manner of evil behavior in us.

Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV) “**(19)** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **(20)** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **(21)** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Romans 7:23 (NKJV) “But I see another law in my members, warring against the **law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to the **law of sin which is in my members.**”

Walking in the Spirit gives us the power to live about the Law of Sin buried in our human nature. As long as we are still in corruptible flesh, we need the Holy Spirits power to live above the “law of sin” which is not GOD’S LAW but sinful flesh.

The reason so many use this text to try to get rid of God’s Law is, the law of sin, that controls them keeps them out of harmony with God’s Law. Therefore, they are enemies of God and His Holy Law.

Romans 8:7 (NKJV) “Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”

Romans 8:5 (NKJV) “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

The answer is, instead of villainizing God’s Law, submit to the Holy Spirit and He will empower you to be delivered from the Law of Sin in your flesh.

Romans 8:1–2 (NKJV) “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. **(2)** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

True Disciples don’t hate God’s Law, they hate the life they lived before accepting Jesus: John 12:25 (NKJV) “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”