

**Growth Group bible study on 18 April 2021**

**Theme: Being a disciple of Jesus Christ**

Bible: Luke 14:25-35 & Luke 18:18-30

Preached by Rev. Je Cheol Cook, PhD

**Read Acts 11:26.**

What does Christian mean?

What does disciple mean?

What is the difference between disciple and Christian?

**Firstly, Jesus told his disciples to hate themselves and their families to become disciple of Jesus.**

**Read Luke 16:26.**

What does this passage mean, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.”

I wonder if we do this and abandon our families, how we can be a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

What does the word hate, which comes from the Greek word, “μισέω (miseó),” mean?

**Secondly, to be a disciple of Jesus is to carry our cross and follow him.**

**Read Luke 14:27.**

Consider this passage and discuss what it’s meaning is, “And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

On Sunday we were told that to be sentenced to die on the cross was regarded as the most cruel sentence in the whole of the Roman Empire and those sentenced suffered greatly. And yet we are asked carry our own cross. What did you learn from this?

Consider what kinds of cross do you carry in your life? If you wish, share this with your group.

**Thirdly, to be a disciple of Jesus is that we are to give up everything that belongs to us.**

**Read Luke 14:33.**

What does the following passage mean, “In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.”

It seems that most Christians who read this passage will having trouble to understand this statement? Discuss why or why not?

How could it be possible for anyone to become Jesus’ disciple without owning any possessions?

**Read Luke 18:22.**

What does the following passage mean, “When Jesus heard this, he said to him, You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

What do you think the words ‘give up mean?

How would you go about applying this order into your life?

Identify the difference, if any, between Luke 18:22 and Luke 14:33.

Describe what you understand about the difference between God’s ownership and stewardship in the bible.

**Summarise what you learnt from this discussion today?**

**Finish the bible study by praying.**

Christians are called “Χριστιανός (Christianos)” in Greek. It means those who follow Christ.

The meaning of disciple has its original form, μαθητεύω (mathéteuó). It means “true Christ-follower.” It also means “helping a believer learn to be a disciple of Christ in belief and practice.” Disciples are needed to do God’s ministry, “helping someone progressively to learn the Word of God and to become a matured, growing disciple of God.”

The word hate comes from the Greek word, “μισέω (miseó)” It means “to love someone or something less than someone or something else.

In the passage of Luke 14:33 which I read before, ‘give up’ is apotassetai: ἀποτάσσεται). It comes from the word apotassomai(ἀποτάσσομαι), which means “to separate or withdraw oneself from anyone,”

In the story in Luke, Jesus claimed that the young man should give up everything that he owned. This refers to ‘no ownership’ in Luke 18:22. However the verse of Luke 14:33 does not refer to ‘no ownership,’ but ‘to throw away wrong motives or attitudes about ownership which are contrary to what God teaches us’. In other words, Luke 14:33 clarifies for us that one needs to use one’s own possessions and gifts not for oneself, but for God and his people who are really in need. Because all these possessions of ours, and gifts belong to God, who has given them to us. They are his. He owns them. We are his stewards, who use them for God and for his people.