

Session 3- Vocabulary of Following

I. Note four key times the teaching comes up.

A. General observations:

1. Four records of this teaching are distributed over the entire ministry of the Lord.

2. Four passages:

a. Matt 10:34-39: As part of the commissioning of the 12.

b. Matt 16:24-28: Just before the transfiguration.

Note parallel passages in Mark and Luke.

c. Luke 14: 25-33: Near Jerusalem in the final months of Jesus' ministry.

d. John 12:23-26: In Jerusalem during the final week of public ministry.

II. Key elements of the vocabulary of these passages.

A. **A new life embraced-** The positive vocabulary.

1. **Follow me-** Join me on my path.

2. **Come after Me-** Allow Me to take the lead.

3. **Be my disciple-** Disciple is a student learning a way of life.

4. **Serve Me-** Join Me in the coming of God's kingdom.

B. **An old life left behind** - The negative vocabulary.

1. **Deny yourself.**

a. Not self-denial.

b. “Deny” means to *turn your back on a friend*.

(1) Not as strong as betray- Judas made a plan to hurt Jesus.

(2) An action taken when maintaining a relationship becomes too costly - Peter denied Jesus out of fear and self-protection.

c. Deny yourself means to turn your back on yourself.

(1) Not self-hatred.

(2) You just stop being your friend.

2. **Take up your cross.**

a. A cross meant a painful end to your life.

b. Note that to take up a cross is a **voluntary** action.

(1) It is not a difficulty from which you cannot escape.

(2) It speaks of a loss that we willingly embrace.

(Of the person who hates his life)
 “He chooses not to pander to self-interest but at the deepest level of his being declines to make himself the focus of his interest and perception, thereby dying.”

*The Gospel According to John, D.A. Carson,
 Eerdmans Publishing Co. p. 439*

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

3. Lose your life.

a. The opposite of saving your life -

All people are naturally self protective.

b. Losing your life requires living counter to every natural and cultural instinct.

c. What is my life?

Your life is your time and resources and all that you hope to get by using them.

4. Hate your own life in this world.

a. This follows on losing your life.

b. Only explanation outside observers can give for why you do not take care of yourself is that you hate your life.

5. Take my yoke- Matt. 11:28-30.

a. Voluntary.

b. Implies being controlled.