

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

*Sermon for the Lord's Day*

**"Practical Lessons from Ecclesiastes" (Part 3 of 4)**



**Welcome Brothers and Sisters!**

**Charles Barry** will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song**, **Paul** is with us to present the **Lesson**. may God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day Plan...*

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

*We are praying for you!*

**Jordan Johnson** - for his safety and in meeting other christians in his travels this week.

**Judy McCollum** - for healing from the fall she took two weeks ago!

**Matthew and Logan McCollum** - for happy birthdays (3 & 4 April) and obedience to the Gospel of Christ.

**Sweeti Parichha** - for her work teaching children and her father's preaching work.

**David Z** - for study and obedience to Gods Word.

**Virginia Elliott** - for healing of the neumonia in her right lung.

*Pray for all people having trouble obeying and/or living the christian life.*

## THE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 9:23

Mike Vestal

Introduction. "And he said to all, 'if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me'" (Luke 9:23). The word "disciple" means a follower, learner, understudy or apprentice. The Greek noun and verb for "disciple" occur about 270 times in the New Testament (but only in the Gospel accounts and Acts). In the fullest, most biblical sense, discipleship involves living as close to Christ as possible, being fully attentive to His words and ways, being willing to sacrifice on His behalf, and being deeply desirous of reflecting His love and grace to others. According to Luke 9:23, the path of discipleship is:

**Universal.** Available to "all" or "anyone" (Matthew 11:28-30).

**Perpetual.** Discipleship is a "daily" thing. It's not something to pursue just when we feel like it or if it's convenient.

**Personal.** Real discipleship necessitates that one "deny self." No one else can do this for us! To "deny" means to say no to something or to refuse. See John 13:38 and Hebrews 11:24. Denying self means that we do not live for ourselves, but for God and His will.

**Painful.** To "take up the cross" involves taking up an instrument of death; in this case, a death to selfishness and pride. We dare not become advocates of "non-impact discipleship." When it comes to discipleship, there IS such a thing as "NO PAIN / NO GAIN." However, even in suffering and pain, there is the joy of knowing we're drawing closer to Jesus (Romans 8:18; 2 Timothy 3:12; Hebrews 12:1-2).

**Practical.** Jesus said, "Follow me." At the heart of this statement are love, obedience, purpose and direction. It's too easy to adopt just enough "Christianity" (2 Timothy 3:5) to be religious, but NOT have an inside-out faith that transforms our lives! In an age of cost-cutting and down-sizing, one area where cuts simply cannot be made is in our relationship with our Lord.

**THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK!**

Proverbs 21:23 encourages the reader to guard the mouth and tongue in order to keep the soul from trouble. The New Testament also tells us to guard our tongues when dealing with our fellow man (Eph. 4:29; James 3:5-6). Proverbs 20:19 says to refrain from gossip. Five questions based on the word “think” to ask before sharing information about another person:

- T – “Is it true?”
- H – “Is it helpful?”
- I – “Is it inspiring?”
- N – “Is it necessary?”
- K – “Is it kind?”



**IN THE NEWS**

Supreme Court Won't Hear the Case. The Supreme Court says it won't review the case of a Seattle-based Christian organization that was sued after declining to hire a bisexual lawyer who applied for a job.

Attendance Still Flat Post-Pandemic Closures. Pew Research study finds there has been little or no rise in the number of people attending in-person religious services over the past six months, while the number of those watching services on-line has also remained steady.



Even during pandemics, human contact is needed. The story is told of a lady named Mamie who made frequent trips to the local post office. One day she confronted a long line of people who were waiting for service from the postal clerks. Mamie only needed stamps, so a helpful observer asked, “Why don't you use the stamp machine? You can get all the stamps you need and you won't have to stand in line.” Mamie said, “I know, but the machine can't ask me about my arthritis.” And it is so.

*April 3, 2022*



**Meeting Days and Times**

**Sunday ..... 9:00 am**

**Wednesday (via Zoom) ..... Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm**

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