

The Call of a Disciple

Following Jesus, when reduced to the most basic level, is truly very simple. Certainly difficult for our flesh, hard to remember, exasperating to execute at times, but not at all complicated. It always comes down to an expression of faith -- reflected in a relationship with, and service to, King Jesus. When we think of our first call, "The Great Commandment" --to love God with our heart, mind, soul and strength, a disciple must be cultivating that love relationship with our Savior. Spending time to hear Jesus through His word, speak our gratitude, our adoration, and to lay down our burdens—to practice genuine worship in our words, attitudes and actions. To rest in His presence in our daily lives and truly enjoy the blessing of being with Him and belonging to Him --to be transformed (changed) by Him. The summary idea of this phase of being a disciple is BEING 'WITH' JESUS.

We also express our love, worship and affection by following (obeying) His kingship, in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. As disciples, God receives our love when we order our lives in obedience to His patterns, truth and wisdom. Obedience is a way we tell God that we trust Him, that we believe His word, that we are willing to let Him lead us into His perfect agenda. Obedience is not a way to righteousness, but an expression of trust and gratitude for the restored relationship, which He initiated and purchased on our behalf. It also expresses our faith through love to those around us in the most God honoring way. As Jesus did *only* what the Father commanded and *all* that the Father commanded. The second simple understanding of the way of a disciple is an awareness and goal of BECOMING 'LIKE' JESUS in actions, attitudes and dependence.

As we grow in our love for Jesus and walk with Him, a huge part of our identity and task is to take on his primary agenda regarding the church age -- to advance His kingdom by the salvation of eternal human souls. We express our love of Jesus, and our reflection of his person and character, as we care more and more about what He cares about. His primary concern and mission is to seek and to save that which is lost. We must, if we are to call ourselves disciples (followers, learners), do what Jesus is doing. So, the expression of our discipleship to the lost world is to STAND AND SPEAK 'FOR' JESUS.

In all that we do at Beggars' Gate, we are cultivating faithfulness and faith in these three relational contexts. It is our desire that as we are each being conformed to the image of Christ, we would truly "be the church" in front of those who so desperately need the message of hope that Jesus offers. It is also our hope that your journey of faith will each day exalt and reflect your Savior more fully, as "we strive together as one man for the faith of the Gospel" of Jesus Christ.