

The Smart Disciple

“28 Suppose one of you wants to build a tower, will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘this fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king, will he not sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. 34 Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Luke 14:28-35)

The marine service is a life long work project of energy. When an agency announces recruitment for this service specific qualifications to fit for that task are also mentioned. Anyone who wants to apply for that particular navy service must know that he will be away most of the time from the world, from his family, from his loved ones, and from the life entertainment. He will spend almost all his youth and adult life roaming around the oceans and seas. Not only that, but in addition, the dangers of the high waves on the sea, the adventure of waters, and the costly sacrifices are waiting for him. It is not an easy decision; it does not need hasty mind but a man with a committed spirit and discerning heart is more qualified to be the one.

The above scripture for today are the words of Jesus who at that time was followed by a large crowd of people. And as He seeks for a true follower, He spoke to them about how His disciples ought to be. He was preaching to a group, but let us accept that He is also speaking to everyone of us now on a personal level. The following points teach us some ways to plan, to decide and to execute as a disciple.

1) Jesus’ disciple is not an ordinary person: There is no extra praises given to the disciples of Jesus, but the Lord is the one who compares them; first, with the one who builds a tower, and that he must be not an ordinary engineer but a well-prepared and qualified one; and secondly, with a king who wages a war. A king is never just an ordinary person whatever status he is. So then, being a believer and follower of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ think not that you are just a simple and naïve person. Because in the eyes of the Lord you are precious once you decided to be one of His disciples.

2) Jesus’ disciple is delegated with a great task: A disciple is to build a tower and to go for war. It is not an easy task that the Lord will give you as one of His disciple. You will be a builder and you will be a warrior. In the kingdom of God, your hand will build and your other hand will fight!

3) Jesus’ disciple uses wisdom and brain: A disciple is to sit down and estimate. Jesus is looking for a mindful follower. The Lord does not want emotional people who are controlled by a faltering heart, easily won and easily lost. He is not happy with people who quickly follow and smoothly miss the way.’ Do you know how much time, effort, and finances you need?’ That is why He asks you to sit down and estimate the cost. He is looking for a wise follower who knows what is meant by the word plan and how to plan. He wants a disciple who knows the time to invest, the time to fight, and the time to announce peace.

4) Jesus’ disciple discerns the enemy: Jesus is the King and the Messiah and by being with Him you are declaring a war against the power of darkness.

5) Jesus’ disciple is faithful to the end: Jesus wants His follower to be well-trained, efficient, to stand firm, and to finish building the tower. He wants him to be courageous, valiant, and capable to win every battle.

6) Jesus’ disciple is not to be ridiculed: The Lord does not want His disciple to be mocked by any one. The people may ask: ‘Who started the battle and in the middle fled away?’ ‘Who started building up and just laid the foundation and left it behind?’ He was warm at the beginning but now very cold!’ ‘He was excited when he saw the design of the tower, but he turned back when toil is required!’ The disciple who has the above criteria will be mocked and laughed at. However, the Lord is proud of His disciples; He does not like people to speak against them. **‘No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the service in the Kingdom of God.’ (Luke 9:62)**

7) Jesus’ disciple knows the cost: Marines and soldiers know so well the cost of their jobs. Most of the time they are away from pleasures and the leisures of this world. Their lives do not belong to them but to the navy or to the army, and at that time they have to give and to sacrifice. A disciple has to know that to follow Jesus may cost not only material sacrifices but even personal life. **‘And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.’ (Luke 14:27)**

The flight of idea, easy distraction, and constant change of thoughts and non-consistency of action are the features of a manic person. These should not be the character of Jesus’ disciple.

The above points we may know by knowledge, but we need wisdom to attain them. We need to set ourselves on new wave. We have to transform our thinking from personal life level, and set our mind according to what is present in the Saviours’ mind. Certainly, we will not understand fully what is in the mind of God. But, in regard to the personal vision that Jesus is giving to everyone of His disciples, we will understand if we give up everything, think by His mind and see by His eyes what He has planned for everyone of us. Jesus said, **‘In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he cannot be my disciple.’ (Luke 14:33)**

Jesus Christ has called the attention of his disciples about how they should live. The question is how the world will feel the presence of Jesus if the disciples forget and do not apply His teachings. The same for the salt if it loses its saltiness, what is the use of it! And what is the use of a disciple who does not know how to start and how to end up his role.

My dear and beloved: In the navy a candidate will not apply for the profession without self testing and mature consideration of that new line of life. The marines are loyal to the king whom they are serving. Likewise, remember the chess game; it may take long time with many steps, waxes and wanes, and many pieces get lost, but the winner is the mindful and smart one who keeps His King up to the end. God Bless You!

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord Jesus gives me wisdom and guides me to obey you and walk in your ways. Help me Lord to persevere and to stand firm in life trials, and not forgetting what you had called me to do and to be, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.