

The Disciple: Yesterday and Today

(Is Discipleship a Question of Hermeneutics?)

Jn 6:66 — “As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.” They were once called disciples but they were not loyal. They turned back from following Him to the end (Mt 21:43; Jn 6:65; 7:17; 6:44-45). Jn 6:45 is a disciple, one taught to be as the teacher Himself. Lk 6:40 — One must be fully taught, graduated by degrees, to become a teacher of others who follow as disciples.

Christianity, as Judaism, trained a religious elite to become the system God hates and detests (Rev 2:15). That is the teaching system of the Nicolaitans. They graduated with degrees. Their “spiritual” graduation entailed becoming by degrees more and more like their teachers (Lk 6:40), the Christian professors or priests, as they propagated an evil system that God detests.

Disciple was a common term in our Master’s day in Judea. It denoted a certain relationship between the rabbi and his students. They followed in their teacher’s way so that they could instruct others in the same way after them. The term *disciple* came to identify the very followers of the Son of God after He ascended to His Father. He commanded His own disciples to love as He loved. By their word, as written and commanded in the gospels, all men would know that all who loved as He loved were *His* very own special followers or disciples.

Jn 13:20,34-35 — This commandment John wrote in his epistle in 1 Jn 3:23 to those who were His special people, as Peter described them in 1 Pet 2:9,10,12. The Gentiles around them would observe their behavior and glorify God. Phil 1:27; 1 Jn 3:23; Jn 13:34-35 — These verses describe those who will be able to fulfill Mt 24:14 as Isa 49:6 says. They are the ones who are “of the truth” (Jn 18:37) and who will produce the fruit of the Kingdom (Mt 21:43). The members of the first Edah were *known* as disciples (Acts 6:1).

The goal of discipleship was that the *learner* would not only master what his teacher knew, but also become like him (Lk 6:40). This can only happen by being separated from the false religious system as our Master and teacher was (Jn 7:15) – even as His disciples were in Acts 4:13,20. In the first century the religious leaders received their training through a well-defined system; recognized rabbis attracted disciples who lived and studied at their schools. But the Messiah said, in contrast to the religious schools of His day, the words in Lk 14:26-33, that no one can be “My disciple” except or unless they give up all they have. This is well-defined, but not a system of learning to be a PhD in Deception (1 Jn 4:1-6) — a Doctor of Deception.

We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1 Jn 4:6)

1 Jn 4:6 — Only one who is able to speak on behalf of Messiah, who has qualified himself to be His disciple, can say this and have the confession of verses 2-3 – as all of His disciples can. They know where they are from as well as their Master and all who are of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Lk 13:25 — What is your address? Do you live and serve where He is? Did He send you out from such a place? (Jn 12:26)

1 Jn 4:2-3 — To *confess* is to know with *all* certainty, with no reservation, since the same Father from whom they are sent honors them. 1 Jn 4:2-3 is not just a decree of a dogmatic nature.¹ 1 Jn 4:2-3 is not a mantra, which is something of the mind, merely the thinking of men’s minds, the counsel they deem as sacred, the mystical formula of invocation or incantation. 1 Jn 4:2-3 is not something repeated concerning the fact that He came 2,000 years ago as a man. It is the *present presence* where He is in the Body of people who serve Him and are sent out from there to establish other communities.

¹ *Dogmatic* is from the word *dogma*, which is from the Greek *dokein*, meaning to seem. *Dogma* means 1) a: something held as an established opinion; especially a definite authoritative tenet; b: a code of such tenets; c: a point of view or tenet put forth as authoritative without adequate grounds. 2) a doctrine or body of doctrines concerning faith or morals formally stated and authoritatively proclaimed by a church.

Today the word *disciple* is no longer used in the Christian churches, since they do not want any of their members to doubt that they are Christians. Lk 14:26-33 — Their preachers can't explain in modern terms what our Master is plainly saying here, or in Jn 13:35, and especially in Jn 17:23, at least not with any certainty or confession from the heart. *Confess* means to speak in agreement with fact and truth.

In 1 Jn 4:2-3, it takes a shepherd, a leader who has a gift of discernment to discern the spirits speaking through one coming to or into a community, whether he is actually from a place where our Master is (Jn 12:26), as he claims. We are not to believe every spirit (1 Jn 4:1). 1 Jn 4:3 is Christianity, which was even then developing into the full-fledged gnosticism it is today. Gnosticism is the conviction of the mind rather than the heart (Rom 10:9-10).

Mk 3:31-35; Lk 12:49-53; Mt 10:37; Mk 10:29-30 — These require conviction of the heart. Gnosticism is knowledge without the fruit of the Spirit. That is the spirit of the anti-Messiah, of Satan himself speaking through men. Men full of the Holy Spirit are the only ones who can discern this – if they also have the gift of discernment.

Acts 2:42 is what a disciple is *since* he has obeyed the gospel in Luke 14. Obedience to Mt 28:19-20 is what caused that gospel, the true gospel, to be preached. Jn 12:25 is essential before verse 26. The false prophets in 1 Jn 4:1 had not done this in their hearts. They had not hated their lives in this world. Jn 14:15,21,23 are true of true disciples, unless they only *seem* true and are actually of Jn 14:24, those who do not keep His words because they do not love Him.

No one can be a disciple, nor can anyone say or confess that he is a disciple of Messiah, unless he is obeying Him, as a present reality (Jn 13:34), and unless he is in His Body and nation. Jn 13:35 will never happen according to what He meant unless we do Jn 14:15. One must not only *have* a New Testament, one must *obey* it, which is impossible without His Spirit in them. And, one must love the true One and not the false one (1 Jn 5:20), which only the true ones can do (1 Jn 2:4-6).

Lk 14:26-33 creates disciples of Yahshua on earth (Lk 12:49-53; Jn 14:15,21,23; Mt 16:18). A disciple of Messiah is as 1 Jn 3:16, doing as He did. That is, he loves as He loved (1 Jn 3:23). He knows he has passed out of death and into life (1 Jn 3:14).

Gal 3:16,26,29 — He was a son and we are sons. We belong to Him and we are as He is in this world (Lk 6:40). Mk 3:14 — He appointed the twelve to be *with Him*. In His day *disciple* was the term used by the false religious system, John, and our Master.

Jn 6:66 — A true disciple was and is a person so committed to Him that he will obey everything He commanded (Mt 28:20) as the first disciples did in Acts 2:37-47. Note especially verse 40, how Peter urged them to be saved from the “wicked and perverse generation” – including the religious system – that they had grown up in.

The religious system makes one twice the sons of hell as they are. This means ever-increasing apostasy, until Rev 18:2 is attained. Bible schools, which educate the elite Christians, as in Mt 23:8-12, will bring this about.

The Salt of the Earth

The salt of the earth are My prudent ones. We are a new kind of people, His most excellent ones. The world will take notice. People love darkness rather than light for their deeds are evil (Jn 3:19). The light of the world, the salt of the earth — salt and light are very valuable — a very valuable people (Ps 16:3). The people who live around the community will see the value of our preserving influence. Rom 9:29 is the salt, the restoration Isaiah spoke of (Isa 49:6; Ecc'cus 48:10). Salt is indirect, but light is directly observed. Phil 2:14-16 — The failure to be the salt and light of the world made the first church as it became Christianity good for nothing. They became a false light and “white death salt” now characterizes them. That is what will happen to us if we lose our love, which is to lose our light.

It is not *who* we are, it's *whose* we are. This is what makes Ps 16:3 true of us.