DISCIPLESHIP DEMANDS BEING COMMITTED TO THE TEACHER, TO HIS INSTRUCTIONS (#5)
By Bob Young

No one can serve two masters. One master—who? Jesus has all authority.
Do not miss the major point of this fifth lesson. By definition, disciples are "all in." There is no half-hearted discipleship! The word "Christian" has become impotent when we hear talk about uninvolved Christians, non-attending Christians. Impossible! Discipleship is whole-hearted—by definition!

What does the Bible say? Much! We can see the point clearly in three texts from Luke.
- Luke 6:46, Jesus is not pleased by those who call him Lord, master, teacher, and do not obey.

- Luke 9, following Jesus means bearing a cross. Hear those words through the first-century context when crosses had only one purpose—death! Daily cross-bearing, daily dying, disciples are disciples every day or they are not disciples at all. Disciples die to self, sin, worldly security, shame.

- Luke 14, nothing can come before the teacher. Imitating the teacher is not for the convenient times; imitating the teacher still holds when it is inconvenient, when I would rather not do it, yielding, submitting, obeying. All of this is a way to say that being a disciple of Jesus means putting Jesus first in everything as we take up our cross to follow him.
    Too many have begun the journey without counting the cost, and when the going is difficult, they either fall away, stop, or redefine discipleship so it is less demanding. Salt that is no longer salty.

The commitment of the genuine disciple will bring continual growth until the day we no longer breathe. There is no place for being partly in the world and partly in Christ, no place for becoming entangled.

Discipleship should be getting easier, less thinking required, fewer decisions because you made ONE decision. If you are traveling the path toward discipleship, this commitment step will be easy, if not it will be very hard. Regardless, commitment is required. By definition, disciples are "all in." No half-hearted disciples!