

DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES LISTENING TO AND LEARNING FROM THE TEACHER (#2)

By Bob Young

Introduction

I hope you have studied the first lesson in series. We are seeking to be disciples, understand, grow, develop. First step: choose, accept Jesus as your authority. Accept him as your guide, wisdom, direction. Accept Jesus as Lord!

Step One: make a good choice. Here is a brief review of basic truths: God loves us, beware of false teachers, Jesus is God's Son and has all authority, authentic disciples let Jesus have complete control of their lives, beliefs which contradict Jesus' teachings and the Bible must be rejected, disciples are always ready to listen and learn.

Once you accept Jesus as Lord, how can you put yourself in a place where Jesus accepts you? This the concept of covenant, a bi-directional agreement. What is the next step toward discipleship? Genuine disciples listen and learn! How do I listen to Jesus? listen to the words of Jesus? How? Where do I find the words of Jesus?

This is a Bible study--more detailed than what you normally hear in a study of discipleship, but essential to answer questions and help with misunderstandings. Many do not know what it means to listen to Jesus as the Teacher.

God gave the law to Israel through Moses, Exod. 34:27,28; 20:19; Deut. 5:1

- God gave the Old Testament covenant (Ten Commandments) to Israel, not to Gentiles, not to Christians
- The law was supposed to last only until the seed (Christ) should come, Gal. 3:16-19
- Jesus came to fulfill (complete) the law; the law would not pass away until all was fulfilled, Matt. 5:17,18
- Jesus did not say that Law would never pass away, but that it would pass away when it was fulfilled
- Jesus came to fulfill the law, Jesus did what he came to do

Jesus came bringing grace and truth; the law came through Moses, John 1:17

- This is my beloved Son, listen to him! Matt. 17, Matt. 3. Listen to the words of Jesus. Seek God through Jesus.

The Old Testament legal system was a wall of separation and enmity between Jews and Gentiles, Eph. 2:11-19

- Jesus came to abolish the barrier (the Old Testament decrees that the Jews followed) and thus to bring unity
- All people now have access to God and fellowship with one another through the death of Jesus, by grace and truth, not through the Ten Commandments.

Is it possible to follow the Old Testament Law and follow (be a disciple of) Jesus at the same time?

- Rom. 7:1-4, can a woman have two husbands at the same time?
- The Law included the Ten Commandments, Rom. 7:6, 7
- Through faith in Christ, Jews were released from the law, Christians were never bound by the law
- The law lasted until Christ, it was fulfilled, it passed away when it was fulfilled, Jesus abolished the barrier
- The covenant and ministry of Jesus is a better covenant than the Old Testament, Heb. 8:6, 7
- A covenant becomes effective with the death of the testament maker, Heb. 9:15-17. The New Testament became effective when Jesus died on the cross.

We must listen to Jesus

- God does not excuse ignorance, Acts 17:30-31
- At Jesus' coming, what will matter is to know God and to obey the Good News of Jesus, 2 Thess. 1:7-10
- Sincerity is not enough, sincerity does not determine if I am right or wrong in my beliefs
- Being sincere and doing good works will not guarantee that I am pleasing to God, Matt. 7:21-23
- Jesus is the only way, John 14:6, 15
- Can you obey Jesus if you do not know what his commandments are?
- The words of grace and truth, the words of Jesus, are found in the New Testament.
- These are the words that will judge us, John 12:47-48
- These are the instructions we must hear, listen to, and follow, Matt. 11:28-29.

#1--Discipleship means making a choice—accepting Jesus.

#2--Discipleship means listening and learning—understanding what Jesus wants; this desire points us to the New Testament where we learn the will of Jesus.

#3--Discipleship means obeying — responding to Jesus in order to put myself where Jesus will accept me. What does it mean to obey, to yield my life to Jesus as my Lord, Master? How? That is the next lesson in this series.