



*Pastor Mike Chapman*

There was a time when you could talk about being a Christian, and people knew what you meant. But the term *Christian* has gotten somewhat confused. Now we have to put modifiers on the term...*born-again, Spirit-filled, evangelical, mainline, charismatic, etc.* Maybe it's time we stop all this adjectival Christianity and decide whether we are *disciples*.

Jesus called for *disciples* not simply *believers*. He gave the church one command—to *go and make disciples* (Matthew 28:19).

## **WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?**

Mark 8:27-28, "*But what about you?*" he asked. "*Who do you say I am?*" Peter answered, "*You are the Christ.*" ... He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected...and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "*Get behind me, Satan!*" he said. "*You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.*" Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but*

*whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul...(NIV)*

1. A disciple confronts the **issues** Christ raises.
2. A disciple confirms the **claims** of Christ.
3. A disciple conforms to the **pattern** of Christ.

A disciple is an **apprentice** who has decided to be with a person in order to become capable of doing what that person does and to become what that person is.

## **WHAT DOES IT COST BE TO BE A DISCIPLE?**

*Luke 14:25-35, Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. "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? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ...In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty*

*again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out."*

Becoming a disciple of Jesus requires a **radical abandonment**.

Christ above relationships

Christ above self

Christ above all

Tasteless salt is a metaphor of a **diluted** commitment.

## **WHAT DOES IT COST *NOT* TO BE A DISCIPLE?**

You lose something of **fantastic** value.

*Matthew 13:44-45, The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. (NIV)*

As long as we think that anything is more valuable than fellowship with Jesus in his kingdom, we will never learn from him.