

WHAT JESUS SAID – THEN AND NOW

Dividends for Discipleship

TEXT: Mt. 19:27-29

INTRODUCTION –This has been **DNow - Disciple Now** weekend for our teens, and they have been engaged since Friday in a study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount learning about **following Christ – discipleship**.

So I have chosen a text today that begins with a question from a disciple, in fact from one on the original twelve disciples. As was often the case, Peter is the one who boldly blurts out the question that leads to the words of Jesus that will be the focus of our attention. His question comes right after Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler where Jesus said to him,

Mt. 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

So Peter, impetuous Peter, says in essence, "Lord, look, that rich young man may have walked away, but we twelve disciples have not walked away. You told him to give up all that he had and follow you. He didn't, but we have. Jesus, you know; we left everything. We left our businesses or our jobs; we left family and friends; we left our houses and ox carts, and we came and followed You.

And then Peter becomes more brazen than probably any of the other disciples would dare to be, more than most of us would dare to be.

And he says, **"So, Lord, what's in it for us?"**

"What are we going to get out of all of this?"

You may be wondering, did Peter really ask that? Well listen and read for yourself exactly what he said.

Mt. 19:27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

Don't Peter's words mean exactly that?

"What's in it for us?"

"What are we going to get out of all of this?"

And what is even more surprising to me than the fact that Peter would dare to ask such a question is that Jesus answers him. The Lord does not rebuke Peter or chastise him at all for the question. He just gives Peter a very clear answer, and that is the subject matter of our look today at what Jesus said, then and now.

Listen to His words.

Contemplate the answer of Jesus.

Folks, listen. This will encourage you. Jesus' answer will inspire you. On dark days and in tough times, Jesus' answer will sustain you. There are dividends for discipleship.

Yes, there are the demands of discipleship.

Yes, there are the disciplines of discipleship.

I have preached on these and will again for they are important. But also of great importance and often ignored or forgotten today, even among God's people, are the dividends of discipleship, the rewards for those who are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mt. 19:27-29 27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

Do you know what the first word of Jesus' answer to Peter is? Our translation is assuredly but this is a Greek word that you know. It's the word amen. And when do we say "amen?" When we want to say, "That is absolutely true!"

And that is what Jesus is saying here. What I am telling you is absolutely true. You can take this check to the bank and cash it! He said, "You have followed me, and I am telling you absolutely for sure that there are three rewards that are coming to you."

I. WHAT YOU HAVE BELIEVED IN FAITH, YOU WILL SEE WITH YOUR EYES, TOUCH WITH YOUR HANDS, AND EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR LIVES.

- A. Jesus called it "**the regeneration.**"
- B. He described it as "**when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory.**"
- C. We most often label it the **Second Coming of Christ.**
- D. Or the **Millennial Kingdom**

1. This is the time of which Daniel the prophet wrote

Dan. 7:13-14

13 "I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.

14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom *the one*
Which shall not be destroyed.

2. You may be thinking, “Oh, Bro. Mike, this is just the old ‘Pie in the sky, by and by.’”
 - a. No it isn’t!
 - b. # 1 it is not in the sky, it is on the earth!
 - c. #2 it is not by and by

We may not be more than 7 years and 1 hour from the moment described here.

In Daniel 9, God unveiled His prophetic clock. God said His clock of end time events would begin when the remnant was allowed to return from Babylon to Jerusalem and it would run for 490 years. And so it did. It ran for 483 years and then, on the day Jesus died on the cross for sin, God stopped the clock. For those of us with a bit of age hanging on us, the Almighty reached out His hand and stopped the pendulum.

For all of you younger folks, God took out the battery.

But God stopped the clock of prophecy with only 7 years remaining before God the Father delivers the kingdoms of this world to the dominion of Christ His Son, to rule and reign over all the earth. Only the rapture of the church in the blinking of an eye and 7 ghastly years of tribulation remain before what Jesus said will most assuredly happen begins to take place.

Dear friend listen, we could be less than an hour from the moment when God releases the pendulum to swing again, when God reinserts His battery to allow the ticking of God’s prophetic clock, and thus only 7 years away from seeing with our eyes Jesus seated on the throne of His glory!

3. And when we do, **Faith becomes sight!**
When that happens **The evidence of things unseen will be seen**
And touched
And experienced!

As we have been reborn, the earth will be reborn (not yet remade, that comes later, but reborn.)

Isa. 35:5-7 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the dumb sing.

For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness,
And streams in the desert.

7 The parched ground shall become a pool,
And the thirsty land springs of water;
In the habitation of jackals, where each lay,
There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

Isa. 11:6-9 6 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.

Oh, dear faithful follower of Christ,
Dear disciple of the Lord Jesus,
You whose faith and following has cost you the things of the world,
You who have given us earthly relationships and earthly treasures in order to follow
Christ, and you have endured the scoffing of men, sometime of family and friends,
listen,

**What you have believed in faith,
You will see with your eyes
Touch with your hands and
Experience with your lives.**

Amen! It is absolutely true, and it is not very far away. The Son of Man will sit on the
throne of His glory!

And when He does,

II. YOUR SERVICE WILL BECOME A HARVEST.

A. The twelve apostles will become judges over each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

*Matthew 19:28b ...you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones,
judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

B. Other believers shall be made rulers over the nations, states, counties, and cities
of the earth.

Again, Daniel declared it.

Dan. 7:27 Then the kingdom and dominion,
 And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,
 Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.
 His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,
 And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

Paul said it.

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? ...

God revealed it to the Apostle John

Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Oh, listen dear brother or sister who has just come to faith in the Lord Jesus and begun to follow Him,

Be encouraged you who have been His disciple for many, many years of your life,
 You who have given faithfully out of the resources God has given you,
 You who have given the tithe and the offering even beyond the tithe, trusting God to supply all your own needs,

You who have given time to the work of the kingdom,
 You who have taught and served in a multitude of ways,
 You who have been witnesses of Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, or the ends of the earth,

Listen, **Your service is about to become a harvest.**

And can you believe, He is not finished. There is yet a third promise to the disciple of Christ, a third reward for the one who follows the Lord Jesus.

III. SACRIFICE BECOMES A RETURNED INVESTMENT.

Mt. 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

1. Today, we are glad if an investment returns 6 or 7% above what we put in.

But an investment that returns 100% is an investment that doubles!

But Jesus did not say a hundred per cent. He said a hundred fold.

You invest \$1, get back \$100!

Invest \$10, get back \$1,000

Invest \$10,000, get back \$1,000,000

If you believed that, how much would you be looking for to invest in the Kingdom of God?

I tell you, folks that never dropped more than a \$10 bill in the offering would be looking for hundreds, so they could get back tens of thousands.

People that would tell you they could never give the Lord \$1,000, would be finding a way to scrape up \$10,000 so they could get their million!

But we don't really believe it do we?

But Jesus said, "Amen!" It is absolutely true. It all happens when He comes back.

Mt. 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

2. And He is not just talking about dollars. He is talking about relationships, and time, and property, and whatever we are willing to sacrifice for His Name's sake.

Think about what you have invested in people, in sharing the gospel, in nurturing them spiritually, in discipling them and see your investment in lives and souls multiplied a hundred times! The only regret we will have when we see that is that we did not find a way to sacrifice more, to invest more so that we might see the hundredfold return on our investment in people for the Kingdom in the Name of the Lord.

And then Jesus adds, almost as it were an aside, "and inherit eternal life."

Mt. 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, **and inherit eternal life.**

3. And what we get back on our investment lasts for eternity.
 - a. All the people are there for eternity. Our relationships with them are for eternity.
 - b. All the other things that we are given back a hundredfold last for eternity also. In the millennium, the curse is lessened but in the eternal kingdom, the curse is eliminated. Right now, if you spend money buying a house, if you don't spend more to keep it repaired, in ten years it shows real deterioration. In 50 years it will be falling in.
 - c. In the millennium a house will barely age. In the eternal kingdom, it will not deteriorate at all. What God gives us, we have forever.

As disciples, the Lord gives all of us opportunities from time to time to sacrifice for His Name's sake. Some take advantage of those opportunities more than others. But our Lord has promised that the Father makes note of whatever we give up for Him and for

the Kingdom. And when the Lord Jesus comes back, seven years plus whatever from today, He will return 100 to 1 on any sacrifice we have made.

CONCLUSION: That's His promise, to which He says, "Amen!" No wonder Paul said,

1 Cor. 2:9 But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."