

## Are You Also One of This Man's Disciples?

by Steve Klein

Text: John 18:17 Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

Introduction: Are you one of Jesus' disciples? Some, like Peter, would deny that they are out of fear.

Others would claim to be His disciples, when in reality they are not. As Titus 1:16 states, "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."

There is the story of the man who came down from the North Carolina mountains. He was all dressed up and carrying his Bible. A friend saw him and asked, "Elias, what's happening? Where are you going all dressed up like that?" Elias said, "I've been hearing about New Orleans. I hear that there is a lot of free-runnin' liquor and a lot of gamblin' and a lot of real naughty shows." The friend looked him over and said, "But Elias, why are you carrying your Bible under your arm?" And Elias replied, "Well, if it's as good as they say it is, I might stay over until Sunday."

The question Peter was asked is a simple one. But not one that everyone would find easy to answer truthfully. Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? If so, then:

I. You became a disciple in baptism - Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of [teach, KJV] all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

II. You love other disciples

A. John 13:35, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

B. 1 John 3:17-18

III. You assemble with other disciples

A. This is what disciples did in NT times,

1. Acts 20:7, "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."

2. Acts 11:26, "And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

3. Hebrews 10:25 "...not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together..."

B. You know that any excuse for not attending must be acceptable to the Lord

1. EXCUSES for failing to attend cannot be authorized by the preacher: (like students' excuses are OK'd by the teacher in school)

2. Malachi 1:8, And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

3. A man sent in his apologies for the Sunday morning service, claiming that he was ill with flu. One of the members, however, said he had seen the man on his way to a ball game. After the service, the preacher went to visit the man, "Brother," he said, "I have information that you were not sick at all this morning, but went to watch a ball game." The man protested: "That's a vicious lie! And I'll show you my FISH to prove it!" The deacon will have to offer his excuse to God, whether the ball game or the fish.

#### IV. You do according to your abilities

A. Acts 11:29 "Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea."

B. Unlike the one-talent man, Matthew 25:15-28

C. Romans 12:11 "not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" (cf. Ecclesiastes 9:10).

#### V. You bear fruit, John 15:8, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Heb 12.11; 13:15  
James 3:17-18

#### VI. You abide in Jesus' words

A. John 8:31, Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

B. Luke 6:46, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"

C. Discipleship is more than just following some vague notion regarding "What would Jesus do?", it is doing what HE actually said to do.

#### VII. You put Jesus first, Luke 14:26-33.

Conclusion: A disciple is one who is striving to be Christ-like.

"It's been said, 'A student learns what his teacher knows, but a disciple becomes what his master is.' Matthew 10:24-25, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. {25} "It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master."