

HALF-HEARTED DISCIPLESHIP

Follow Christ

Banska Bystrica 24th September 2017

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Mt 7:7 Αἰτεῖτε καὶ δοθήσεται ὑμῖν, ζητεῖτε καὶ εὕρησете, κρούετε καὶ ἀνοιγήσεται ὑμῖν·⁸ πᾶς γὰρ ὁ αἰτῶν λαμβάνει καὶ ὁ ζητῶν εὕρισκει καὶ τῷ κρούοντι ἀνοιγήσεται.

Mt 7:7-11 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Lk 14:27 ὅστις οὐ βαστάζει τὸν σταυρὸν ἑαυτοῦ καὶ ἔρχεται ὀπίσω μου, οὐ δύναται εἶναί μου μαθητής.²⁸ Τίς γὰρ ἐξ ὑμῶν θέλων πύργον οἰκοδομῆσαι οὐχὶ πρῶτον καθίσας ψηφίζει τὴν δαπάνην, εἰ ἔχει εἰς ἀπαρτισμόν;²⁹ ἵνα μήποτε θέντος αὐτοῦ θεμέλιον καὶ μὴ ἰσχύοντος ἐκτελέσαι πάντες οἱ θεωροῦντες ἄρξωνται αὐτῷ ἐμπαίζειν³⁰ λέγοντες ὅτι οὐ τὸς ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἤρξατο οἰκοδομεῖν καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσεν ἐκτελέσαι.³¹ Ἢ τίς βασιλεὺς πορευόμενος ἐτέρῳ βασιλεῖ συμβαλεῖν εἰς πόλεμον οὐχὶ καθίσας πρῶτον βουλευέσεται εἰ δυνατός ἐστιν ἐν δέκα χιλιάσιν ὑπαντῆσαι τῷ μετὰ εἴκοσι χιλιάδων ἐρχομένῳ ἐπ' αὐτόν;

Luke 14:27-31 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

וְיִשְׁקַחְךָ אֱלֹהִים וְיִמְצָאֲךָ כִּי יִשְׁקַחְךָ בְּכָל-לְבָבְךָ

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart,

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- 3.3. ENTER!

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0. INTRODUCTION

- Today's offer: (1) entertainment – instead of **joy**; (2) chat – instead of **communion**; (3) information – instead of **understanding**

0.1. MT 7:7 – DIFFERENT WAYS TO CHRIST

- (1) “ask” → passive waiting, (2) “seek” → active searching, (3) “knock” → changing environment
- **Isa 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way
 - בָּלָנוּ כַּצֹּאֵן תְּעִינוּ אִישׁ לְדַרְכּוֹ פָּנִינוּ
- Lk 15:
 - (1) foolishness, (the lost sheep)
 - (2) total ignorance, (the lost coin)
 - (3) rebellion (the Prodigal son)

0.2. MT 7:7 – WORDS IN RELATIONS

- Synonymical: ask = seek = knock... different intensity; attitude...
- Holistic: (1) ask → the mind, (2) seek → the will, (3) knock → emotions
- Progressive: (1) receive justification, (2) seek holiness, (3) enter the Kingdom

1. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

1.1. THE CONTEXT OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

- (1) ask: “Our Father” [ch.6]. (2) seek: the Kingdom of God [6:33], (3) knock → the narrow gate [7:13]
- (1) my character,
- (2) my relationship with God,
 - (3) my attitude toward the world,
- (4) my ways in religious matters

1.2. THE ONE ANSWER OF GOD

- **Lk 10:42** ...**one thing** is necessary... [ἐνὸς δέ ἐστιν χρεία·]
- **Phil 3:13** Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But **one thing** I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

D. M. Lloyd-Jones: " I must distrust any emotion that I may have within me with respect to God unless it is based solidly upon the Lord Jesus Christ."

- Israel rejected the Messiah! – the ONE and ONLY hope promised from God.

1.3. FAITH–HOPE–LOVE

- The centre of gravity in Christian faith: (1) Jesus, the only answer (2) the future beyond this life, (3) sacrificial giving

2. ARE YOU SITTING ON THE FENCE?

- **Lk 17:32** Remember Lot's wife. (μνημονεύετε τῆς γυναικὸς Λώτ)
- **Lk 9:62** "No one who puts his hand to the plow and **looks back** is fit for the kingdom of God."
- **Heb 12:1** ...let us also **lay aside every weight** (ὄγκον ἀποθέμενοι πάντα), and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2.1. LOVERS OF THE WORLD

- **1John 2:15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world- the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions [the pride of life]- is not from the Father but is from the world.

[LLOYD-JONES]... this instinct of self-defence; we introduce our definition to guarantee that we are right and others may be wrong, but that is not the Scriptural definition of what is meant by worldliness.

2.2. ENEMIES OF THE CROSS

- **Phil 3:18** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ [πολλοὶ γὰρ περιπατοῦσιν οὐς πολλακίς ἔλεγον ὑμῖν, νῦν δὲ καὶ κλαίων λέγω, τοὺς ἐχθροὺς τοῦ σταυροῦ τοῦ Χριστοῦ]
- LLOYD-JONES *Philippians*, p. 348:
But you can do exactly the same thing in your conduct, says the Apostle. He is talking about people who are living the wrong kind of life, whose gods are their lusts, their passions, their carnal nature, who live for these things, who ‘mind earthly things’. Paul says equally of them that they are enemies of the cross of Christ. Is there any class of person who brings the cross into greater disrepute than that? Have you seen people who talk about the cross and say that Christ died for them, and yet they are living an immoral life? I

2.3. BARREN CHRISTIANITY

- **John 15:6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.
- **Heb 6:7-8** For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

3. ARE YOU PREPARED TO ACT ON THE ANSWER?

3.1. ACCEPT!

- Bileam [Nu 22]: asked guidance – but did not like the answer
- Israelites [Jer 42-43]: asked Jeremiah for advice, did not follow the instruction not to go to Egypt
- Job: God answered from the storm – and he submitted to it.

3.2. USE!

- the spies [Nu 13]: went to survey the Promised Land – did not want to go there...
- the rich ruler [Mt 19:21-22] Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions]

C. S. LEWIS *Screwtape Letter*, I once had a patient, a sound atheist, who used to read in the British Museum. One day, as he sat reading, I saw a train of thought in his mind beginning to go the wrong way. The Enemy, of course, was at his elbow in a moment. Before I knew where I was I saw my twenty years' work beginning to totter. If I had lost my head and begun to attempt a defence by argument I should have been undone. But I was not such a fool. I struck instantly at the part of the man which I had best under my control and suggested that it was just about time he had some lunch. The Enemy presumably made the counter-suggestion (you know how one can never quite overhear what He says to them?) that this was more important than lunch. At least I think that must have been His line for when I said 'Quite. In fact much too important to tackle at the end of a morning,' the patient brightened up considerably; and by the time I had added 'Much better come back after lunch and go into it with a fresh mind,' he was already half way to the door. Once he was in the street the battle was won. I showed him a newsboy shouting the midday paper, and a No. 73 bus going past, and before he reached the bottom of the steps I had got into him an unalterable conviction that, whatever odd ideas might come into a man's head when he was shut up alone with his books, a healthy dose of 'real life' (by which he meant the bus and the newsboy) was enough to show him that all 'that sort of thing' just couldn't be true. He knew he'd had a narrow escape and in later years was fond of talking about 'that inarticulate sense for actuality which is our ultimate safeguard against the aberrations of mere logic'. He is now safe in Our Father's house.

Míval jsem jednoho pacienta, spolehlivého ateistu, který chodíval studovat do Britského muzea. Jednou jsem si všiml, že v myšlenkách zamířil nesprávným směrem, a Nepřítel mu samozřejmě hned stál po boku. V duchu jsem už viděl, jak se mých dvacet let práce začíná hroutit. Kdybych ztratil hlavu a snažil se hájit pomocí argumentů, prohrál bych. Ale takový hlupák jsem nebyl. Já jsem zaútočil na tu část svého člověka, kterou jsem ovládal nejlépe, a navrhl jsem mu, že je právě čas jít na oběd. Nepřítel pravděpodobně učinil protinávrh (víš přece, že nikdy pořádně neslyšíme, co On jim říká?), že tato záležitost je důležitější než oběd. Aspoň si myslím, že On řekl pravi tohle. Já na to: „Přesně tak. Dokonce je to příliš důležité, než, aby to šlo zvládnout těsně před obědem“, a pacient značně okřál; a když jsem dodal: „Bude lepší se do toho pustit s odpočatou hlavou až po obědě“, už byl na cestě ke dveřím. Jakmile se octl na ulici, byla bitva vyhraná. Ukázal jsem mu kamelota s poledními novinami a autobus číslo 73, který jel právě kolem, a ještě než sešel ze schodů, byl pevně přesvědčen, že i když člověka napadají různé hlouposti, když tak sedí sám u svých knih, přesto pořádná dávka „skutečného života“ (čímž myslel autobus a kamelota) stačí k tomu, aby si uvědomil, že „něco takového“ přece nemůže být pravda! Věděl, že se mu podařilo uniknout jen o vlásek, a v pozdějších letech rád mluvil o „tom nevýslovném smyslu pro skutečnost, který je naší poslední ochranou před úchylkami čistě logického myšlení“. Teď už je v bezpečí v domě Našeho Otce.

3.3. ENTER!

- Jethro(?) – refused to go with Moses to the Promised Land [**Ex 18:27** Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.]
- **Acts 26:28** And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"
- **Col 1:13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and **transferred us to the kingdom** of his beloved Son,
- **Heb 13:13** Therefore let us go to him **outside the camp** and bear the reproach he endured.

4. TO REMEMBER

- If you are asking God for help very probably you already know the answer!
- To live a successful Christian life you have not only to receive things from God, but also to reject things that hinder your sanctification.
- Be sure to act on the answer you get from God. You will not get more light until you do!