**TRUE DISCIPLESHIP**

Text: Luke 14:25-33

The conditions of discipleship were clearly given by our Lord Jesus Christ. He knew many who are not His disciples would claim to be, and therefore, left none in doubt as to the distinctiveness of those who are truly His own. There can be no true discipleship without absolute surrender to His sovereignty. This starts with His enthronement in our hearts as Lord and King without any rival. From thence, the heart must love God above all things and subordinate love for wife, children, parents, self, etc to the love of God. A true disciple's love for God determines his attitude to other things that are even legitimate.

A true disciple forsakes all to follow the Lord. His purpose in life is to advance the cause of the gospel at any cost. His mission is to follow the Lord without questioning as to wherever He leads. He denies himself and deliberately chooses to take up the cross and follow the Lord. He patiently and joyfully bears the shame, persecution, scorn and ridicule that come with the cross. For the true disciple, there is no life of regret. He counts it all joy to suffer for Christ.

A true disciple spends his life following the Lord. He lives a life of obedience to the will of God and spends his life in unselfish service for others. Christ is his pattern of life. His yardstick when taking decision is: "what would Christ do?" For him, his principle of life is: "Others may, I cannot". Others may waste their time, care less about souls, live as if Christ's coming were not now, but I cannot.

The life of a true disciple is characterised by love of the brethren. The kind of love that esteems others before oneself is "the more excellent way" of godly living. This is love that suffers long, kind, does not envy, not puffed up, does not think evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Above all, the true disciple maintains regular and daily communion with God. He constantly examines himself in the word of God to ensure he does not depart from its precept. He stays with the word and carries out His commands.

1. Who is a disciple? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the necessary step to take to become a disciple? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_

3. From the following passages explain the conditions of discipleship. (a) Luke 14:26

(b) Luke 14:33 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(c) Matthew 16:24 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(d) John 13:35 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(e) John 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_