



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

May 13, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 19

SEASON OF EASTER

A Reflection on Discipleship

By Mr. Ormond Williams

(Please take a moment and read 1 Peter 3:13-22)

It is said that what we do will always speak more loudly than what we say. This does not negate the importance of what we say but it shows how all aspects of our lives must be in alignment. This approach is also applicable to the disciple of Jesus Christ. There are many people who would never read the Bible but they would certainly study our lives. And the way we live will determine whether they read the Holy Scriptures or decide on a personal journey with Jesus Christ.



Far too many disciples of Jesus Christ still have a Christian journey that is limited to Sunday – that mountain-top experience. But during the week and as the week wears on the glorious shine of the mountain-top experience fades to expose the fragile human nature we all possess. We become stumbling blocks to those who need to hear the Word of God and to see in Christ's

disciples a lifestyle that emulates that of Jesus Christ. What we do must not betray what we say as the disciples of Christ.

Who we are as Christians must be informed by who leads us or by whom we follow. We are disciples of Jesus Christ because we accept the lordship and teachings of our Master, Jesus Christ and seek to live His teachings in our daily lives. The teachings of the Holy Scriptures provide the foundation for our faith and the framework for our Christian living.

What does the Bible say about the Scriptures and the Christian's relationship to it? Psalm 1:1-2 declares that

"Blessed is the person... who delights in the Law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night".

This suggests that the Christian must get excited about the Word of God. The Christian's approach to the Word is not a casual one; he studies it with intention, seeking to discern God's will and way. Every time the disciple of Christ rises from meditating on the Word of God, he comes away with at least a little bit more than when he started his study. The disciple

receives clarity, needs are filled and encouragement is received. Now, there are times when the Word is difficult to understand but this cannot be an excuse to stop studying it. Persistence and seeking God's wisdom often produces the desired results.

There are times when the Christian is led to study the same passage over and over again, and every time fresh insight is received. Hebrews 4:12 declares that

"the Word of God is living and active".

The attitude with which we approach the Word of God is critical to what we do with it. Our approach must be that we accept that the Bible is God's instructions to mankind. The Creator provides the manual of life to His creations. 2 Timothy 3:16 says,

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."

There are many great books that we can turn to for self-help ideas, knowledge and instruction but the greatest of them all is the inspired word of God. Have you ever noticed that many of these personal development books and other materials are actually based on the Scriptures? They might not want to admit it but a knowledge of the Scriptures will inform you of the source of the information in many of these volumes.

The disciple of Jesus Christ needs to accept the Scriptures as God's directions for her life. Jesus was quick to accept and declare that the teachings He proclaimed did not come from himself or belonged to Him; rather these teachings came from and belonged to the One who sent Him – God, the Father – John 7:16. Psalm 119:105 states that



"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

Jesus, when He was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, rebuked the devil with the words

"Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matth. 4:4)

We understand God's purpose for life and find meaning in life as we delve into God's Word.

As important as meditating on the Word of God is there must come a time when the disciple of God lives what she has studied. James makes a similar argument in chapter 1:22

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

And Jesus in Luke 11:28 advises His listeners in this way,

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

As the children of Israel prepared to enter the land promised to them by God, Joshua in chapter 22:5 instructed them to

“be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”



The disciple of Christ shows her love for Jesus when she is obedient to the commands of her Lord. According to Jesus, all the commandments of God are wrapped up in these two: Love the Lord with your entire being and your

fellowman as Jesus loves you. The disciples of Jesus Christ cannot say that Jesus is their Lord and Master and then refuse to accept His instructions for their life.

But let's get real, we know there are times when the disciple of Jesus refuses to live by God's instructions and in those instances he must make haste to return to God, confess his sins and seek forgiveness, so that there is restoration of the relationship between himself and God. A disciple of Christ who desires to walk faithfully with Jesus and is resolved to have his life aligned to the instructions of Christ, will always be uncomfortable until his sinful life is addressed with God. When his conscience no longer pricks him and sin is now tolerated, he needs to recognize that serious work is required to change course and to bridge the divide between himself and God.

It is not enough for the disciple to be obedient to the Word of God just for his own relationship with God. There is a requirement by God that we share this information with those we come in contact with. When the Israelites were about to occupy the Promised Land, they were instructed to fix God's words to their hearts and minds, to tie them as symbols to their hands, bind them to their foreheads and write them on their doorposts and gates. God further instructed them to also teach the Word of God to their children and to talk about God's Word when they were at home or on the road.

It is clear from these instructions that God's Word can be personal to us, but it is never private. It must be shared with the public. After all, the disciple of Jesus Christ is instructed to go into the world and evangelize. For in hearing the Word of God which goes out and returns to God accomplishing what God has in mind for it, the hearer, touched by the Spirit of God, can call on the name of the Lord and be saved. Paul writing in Romans 10:14-15 addresses this issue,

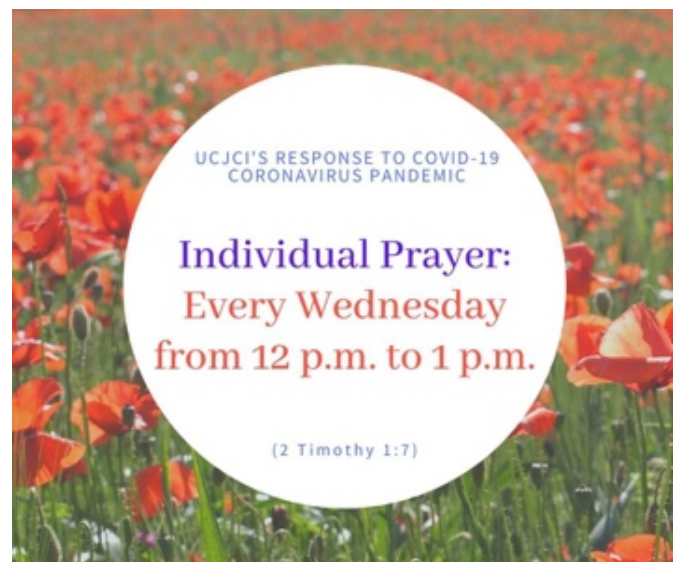
“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

This is not an instruction to preachers; it is for all disciples of Christ – we are called to announce the Good News of salvation whenever the occasion arises. Paul puts it this way to Timothy

“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Timothy 4:2).

And in preaching and living, the Word of God is central to the disciple's life and witness.

May God help us be faithful disciples who meditate on His Word, obey and live by His Word, and share His Word with others. Amen.



Worship the Lord
-on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am-
May 17. Mr. Ormond Williams

May 17. (Sunday) 6th Sunday of Easter
Local United Church Worship Services will be distributed via video links.

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947 1963 Email: rdgs@cicucjci.com or cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: unitedchurch.org.ky