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Conquering Life's Mountains Together!

Personal Life Coaching

September 2006

Greetings!

We hope you had a pleasant Labor Day Weekend. Life sometimes has a way of turning our plans upside down. This always reminds me who's REALLY in charge (and it's not me!). I, Marilyn, had all kinds of plans for Labor Day, one of which was working on this newsletter. Well, at 2:00 a.m. my daughter phoned saying she had to bring her husband to the emergency room. It turned out he had a large gall stone and had to have surgery. My day was spent with my three grandchildren--no time for researching and writing an article!

Barb and I have been talking about being focused on what we believe God is wanting us to do, but not so focused that we don't allow space for side trips. I do believe God has specific purposes for us, but sometimes we miss the ways in which we can be blessed or be a blessing. God is directing us and we need to be ready to make a right or left turn when we hear His voice.

It's important to take time to determine what's really important. We need to be ready in an instant to obey what God is telling us. We may miss opportunities to witness to someone or do something that has great importance in the Kingdom.

In today's article we will be discussing *Discipleship*. In our modern world, often the true meaning of discipleship has been lost. If you are looking for someone to come alongside you in your growth as a Believer in Jesus of Nazareth, both Barb and Marilyn have had many years of experience in discipling and Bible teaching. Call or email us today to set up your free introductory coaching call. Phone 920-432-5002 or 920-336-7005. Email us at info@setapartmingb.org.

Blessings in Messiah,



Barbara Klika and Marilyn Guffey, Personal Life Coaches

Are You Really a Disciple of Jesus? (John 8:31)

Many of us are familiar with Jesus' last words to His disciples before He returned to His Father: ***Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*** (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV).

In the King James Version, verse 19 reads, *Go ye therefore and **teach** all nations.....* The King James Version is actually more accurate than the NIV according to Strong's Concordance. The Greek Word *mathetes* (Strong's 3101), translated "disciple" in the NIV, means a *learner, especially an adherent to the specific teachings of a teacher, following the example of the teacher.*

There are many spectrums of meaning to the word "disciple" in today's world. Often in modern Christianity, people have come to believe they are a disciple of Jesus when they simply believe in His atoning work. On the other hand, I have heard of an extreme form of discipleship where people are to do whatever their teacher tells them to do. These people are controlled in every aspect of their lives to the extent that they are spied upon. Neither of these practices exemplifies the meaning of the actual Greek Word.

Prior to Jesus become a teacher, we know He loved to be in the temple asking questions as we talked about last month. I'm led to believe He'd probably done this same sort of thing many times. We also know He was 30 years old before He Himself became a teacher. He was always ready to teach on any occasion and used daily life as a way of teaching. He taught in parables. He taught by asking questions for people to ponder. He also taught by just doing-- healing, calming the waves, etc.

Before we can become a discipler of men, we must first **BE** a disciple. In John 8:31, Jesus states, *If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. IF YOU HOLD TO MY TEACHING.* Just believing in Jesus does not make us His disciple-- we must **HOLD**--*remain fast, to maintain one's position against opposition; to remain attached or faithful; to hold to one's purpose** to His teachings.

What should be our motive for following the teachings of the Bible? Peter quotes from the book of Leviticus (11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7) in I Peter 1:15-- *Be holy, because I am holy.* In 2:21, Peter states Jesus left us *an example, that you should follow in His steps.*

Discipleship is not only learning--it is doing! In Jesus' 1st Century Jewish world, *the pursuit of truth was not the highest good so much as the doing of it. Study that led to doing was considered a high form of worship.***

It is not enough to merely attend worship services and read our Bibles. We must be **DOERS** of the word to come into the fullness of believers in Jesus. As we learn and follow Jesus' example, we in turn become disciplers who can lead others in *paths of righteousness* (Psalm 23).

Being a disciple and discipling are both challenging tasks. The disciples of Jesus lived, slept and ate with Him day in and day out for three years. They in turn were persecuted for their faith, but they became teachers themselves. To be a teacher is a high calling, but it also high standards.

Yes, discipleship is costly, but the rewards are priceless--righteousness, peace and joy in God's redemptive reign. Actually, non-discipleship is even costlier because we miss

*out on the fullness of God's intended life for us, as well as the joy of a life of learning with the Master.***

Are you **really** a disciple of Jesus? If you are really a disciple, do you walk in His example? If you are a discipler, do you teach others? (M.G.)

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Keeping Your Joy Full!

Does it ever happen in your life as it does mine, that the deep joy and certainty of knowing you are walking in His will is sometimes camouflaged by events, things people may say or do in misunderstanding, or just the "sensibleness" of the world's teachings and expectations?



Sometimes the things our Abba asks us to do seem far-fetched or beyond common sense, don't they?

Yes, of course! They aren't about common sense but about Him, Who is so far from common!

When we encounter those temptations to fall into worry or doubt about how our Messiah is leading us, we could be being tempted to listen to our flesh, or what Jim Wilder, PhD has dubbed the "sark." It is the part of ourselves that has not fully entered into the heart that our Messiah has designed in us.

I was recently reminded through the writings of Oswald Chambers that we need only ask ourselves, as our Messiah did of His parents when He was at the Temple; "Didn't you know I must be about my Father's business?" Can you hear in your spirit, the amused, affectionate quality of such a response? "Why of course, I must be doing this! It is what my Abba has called me to do." What else could bring such deep joy! (B.K.)

Changes of a Woman's Life Survey

Marilyn Guffey is conducting a survey on the Life Changes of Women. Please take a moment to submit one important question that's on your mind. Marilyn plans to use the answers for future articles and eventually an e-book. Thank you for your input! [Click here to ask your question.](#)

ABOUT US

Barbara L. Klika, MSW, LCSW, Personal Life Coach is a licensed mental health

professional and founder of Set Apart Ministries, Inc., who is trained to help people learn new skills and make significant behavior changes. She is a trained Bible Study teacher and has been mentoring people in their spiritual growth for many years. She has completed Life Coaching training through Mentor Coach, Inc. She is here to offer her skills in the areas of faith development, communication, problem-solving, and behavior change.

Marilyn T. Guffey, lay counselor, Personal Life Coach, worked in a church setting for ten years before joining Set Apart Ministries, Inc. in January 2003. She has received instruction through a variety of Christian lay counseling courses as well as working alongside pastors and professional mental health therapists. She has also completed Life Coaching training through Mentor Coach Inc. Marilyn has worked extensively supporting women --spiritually, emotionally and practically--through encouragement and prayer.

In Coaching, you come for help to make decisions and then implement them, in order to achieve goals that you have chosen for yourself. May we come alongside and encourage you along the way?

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