

Rewards and Discipleship

Mark 10:28-30 / Luke 14:25-27

Have you ever felt that “super-rich people” seem to have a better life and the blue-collar club is doomed to sing the blues? In my own personal experience I have felt a lot like Peter must have felt that day. In fact, sometime Christians wonder what good it does to give up all they lay claim to, and make decisions to follow Jesus. We feel like we’re going to get “*the short end of the stick.*” This passage will bankrupt any notion that living our life without becoming a disciple of Jesus is “getting ahead.” The Lord has a word of encouragement for everyone who has had to make a costly decision to follow His direction.

V. 29-30 – Jesus responds to Peter with a gentle, rock-solid promise of encouragement! God sees, records and rewards every sacrifice for Him. For us today, what we walk away from to do God’s will, might seem like a lot at the time – But God’s got a whole lot more in store for us in the future, than we leave behind in our past! Example: We leave one house – God opens a Hundred doors. We sacrifice some close time with family and God brings a hundred times more family to our doorstep. God’s will may lead us miles apart from our loved ones – but we gain “father-like, mother-like, brother-and-sister like relationships exponentially. **V.30** “hundredfold” is not a literal return... but a comparison in value... our return is a “hundred-times” more rich than before! **BOTTOM LINE...** Jesus is telling us that He has far more for us than anything we could ever give up to follow Him!

Another thing, Jesus is completely open about the real world – **V.30** also has reference to “persecutions.” There is a price to pay – not everybody understands, supports or gets excited about our commitment. **II Timothy 3:12**, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” but God will bless you in spite of any trials you might face along the way. Those that turn loose of what they see right now... and say, “Lord, whatever You want me to do... is what I want...” find overwhelming provisions, rewards NOW and in Heaven!

John 12:26 “If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.” Here are some “Count-on-it” rewards of choosing to be a disciple of Jesus... one is for now and one is for the future...

I. His Faithfulness to Show Us His Will – **Eph 5:17** “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” How do we know: “*How does God show us...?*”

A. Desire – **Psalms 37:4** It’s a desire that won’t go away, it won’t diminish; but it’s not a “demand.” Even when the “glamour” is gone! **II Cor. 5:14** “For the love of Christ *constraineth* us...” (Compels / draws us towards...) We find a genuine drawing for service – to satisfy our Wonderful Savior!

B. Direction – **Psalms 37:23 / V.3, 5-7**: circumstances are orchestrated without our manipulation. He will put us in a position or a place through events... where He wants us to serve Him. **CAUTION**: “Don’t help Him, by pushing on His doors!” Walk with Him – constantly checking with Him through prayer. Wait on Him. Read and treasure **Psalms 37:1-11**.

C. Deep-Centered Peace – **Colossians 3:15** “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

II. His Future Where We Will Rejoice!