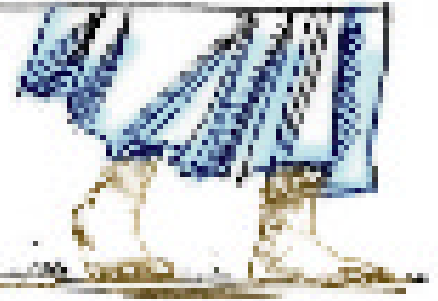


Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

...learning to live where the load is light



Lesson 10 / Page 1

Dear Bible Study Friends,

Here we are in 2005 already; can you believe it? There is something re-invigorating about opening a new calendar and starting a new year. In our personal lives, each day is a new start. We have the opportunity to live for Jesus, or live for ourselves every moment of every day.

These are a few highlights from our fall semester studying what a disciple, or follower of Jesus Christ, looks like. Disciples are people who . . .

- Love God more than themselves, others, or material possessions
- Love others sincerely
- Are unashamed of the cross of Jesus Christ
- Carry their own cross
- Are being sanctified (made holy) for God
- No longer conform to the pattern of this world
- Live life in the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God

These concepts should sound familiar to you. However, is that all there is to following Christ? One very important component of belonging to Christ is that we become His hands, feet, and voice in this life. We become His ambassadors in our circles of influence. We become *disciplers* that disciple others. That is not as scary or ominous as it sounds! This second semester we are going to break down exactly what that means. You will soon discover that God equips those He calls. Influencing others for Christ is one of the most exciting aspects of being a follower of Jesus.

Jesus' last words to His disciples were to go and make disciples, teaching them everything He taught (see Matthew 28:18-20). That's it in a nutshell! Just being *willing* to teach someone else about Jesus and His incredible love is the first step. I believe there is nothing more fulfilling than watching someone else learn to love God and experience His joy.

Are you ready? Will you begin this study on your knees? Express your willingness to obey God in every area of your life. Yes, God will use *you*. There will be at least one person in your life that God will bless you with the opportunity to disciple in His time, in His way, in His power, and for His glory. I know what you're thinking ...*I don't know enough, I don't have all the answers, I wouldn't know where to begin...* exactly! That's why you're in this study!

My grandmother passed away at age 92. I believe she was involved in discipling others until she was nearly 90. She had no big ministry in the eyes of this world, and she had no formal training. However, I know there are many beauty operators (as she called them), neighbors, family members, people who rented apartments from her, and a variety of others whom she taught how to love Jesus and find joy in Him who are now in heaven because of her influence. She obeyed Jesus' final words only because she loved Him. Are you affecting others for all eternity because of your obedience as His disciple?

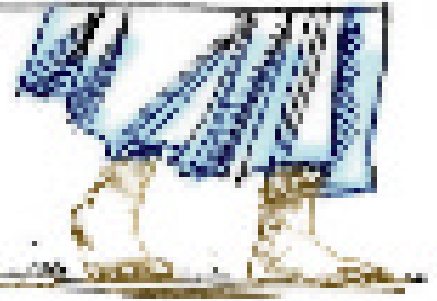
Thanks for participating in this study. My prayer is that your love for God will grow deep and that your joy in Christ will be rich as you listen to His voice through the written Word.

In His love,

Grace Cabalka

Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

...learning to live where the load is light



Lesson 10 / Page 2

Loving Our Lord

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me (*Jesus*).

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so,
I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back,
And take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.
You know the way to the place where I am going...

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father
except through me." (John 14:1-6)

These words were spoken by Jesus to His disciples just a short time before He was arrested. What is troubling your heart today? In what way do Jesus' words give you hope? Take a few moments to really listen to what Jesus is saying. Underline, circle, or highlight anything that speaks to your heart.

1. What is to replace our fear, according to this passage? _____

2. What do we have to look forward to? _____

3. How will we get to that prepared place? _____

4. Can anyone get there another other way? _____

5. How does this promise help you to live in peace today? _____

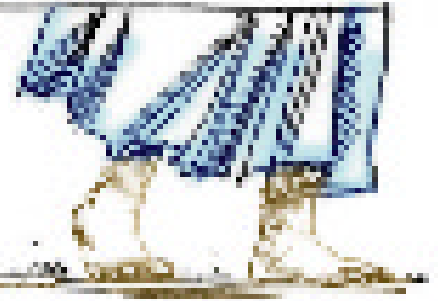
Begin your time of study proclaiming your trust in Christ. Think about what is to come: Your place in God's house being prepared by Jesus Himself. Jesus will escort you personally to your room. We can't begin to imagine what this will be like, but the truth is it will happen. Every promise of God will for sure happen. Have you been discouraged? You may want to commit this passage to memory, and remind yourself often of the truth that is yours. Do you trust Him?

Learning His Word

Our study so far has intentionally looked at the *process* we are in of becoming like Christ. We realize this process will continue until the day we see our Lord face to face. We enter this process with the Lord as we choose to deny our earthly, sinful nature and apply our new nature which is given to us in the person of the Holy Spirit. As we think about learning how to disciple another (see introduction), we know that we can't wait until we *feel* ready. We never will. Jesus gave us a different prescription entirely. First, we need to be completely connected to our *source*, Jesus Christ.

Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

...learning to live where the load is light



Lesson 10 / Page 3

1. Some of Jesus' most compelling words were spoken during His last few days on earth. Read what He teaches His disciples from John 15:5-11. What is your first impression from this passage?

2. Read verses five to six again. Jesus is teaching us how to live for and through Him. What picture does He give?

a. What is the responsibility of a vine? _____

b. What do the branches do? _____

c. Can an unconnected branch bear any fruit? _____

3. Contemplate what a vine does for a branch. What does the vine provide? _____

a. In what ways can you relate this picture to what Jesus provides for us? _____

b. Jesus clearly states that apart from Him we can't do anything! What do you think He means by that?

c. What does Jesus claim in John 15:4? _____

d. What promise does Jesus give in verse five? _____

4. Read John 15:7-8. What does Jesus promise in verse seven? _____

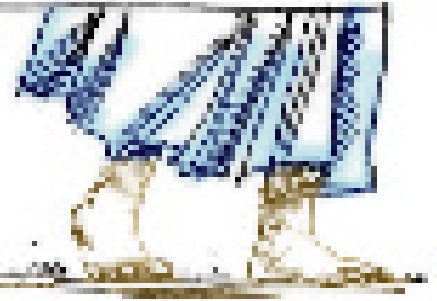
a. What conditions are attached to this promise? _____

b. Look up the word *remain* in a dictionary. What is the full meaning of this word? _____

c. What are some ways we can have Jesus' words remaining in us? _____

Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

...learning to live where the load is light



Lesson 10 / Page 4

5. John 15:4 quotes Jesus as saying, "If you remain in Me, I will remain in you." We are in Christ, and Christ is in us! In what way do the following verses confirm this truth?

Galatians 2:20 _____

Romans 8:10 _____

2 Corinthians 13:5 _____

Revelation 3:20 _____

6. According to these verses, there is a real, personal dwelling of Christ in us! God designed it this way. What is the outcome of this relationship according to John 15:8? _____

a. So, if we do anything that bears fruit for God, what is that a result of (see John 15:4)? _____

b. In what ways are you making an effort to remain in Christ? _____

7. Read John 15:9-11. Jesus tells us how to remain in Him. First of all, how does He describe His love for us? _____

a. Jesus wants us to remain in His incredible love. How is that possible according to this passage from John? _____

b. Jesus is repeating Himself which implies that this truth is very important for us to understand. How does He state this same principle in John 14:23? _____

c. Why has Jesus revealed this truth to us according to John 15:11? _____

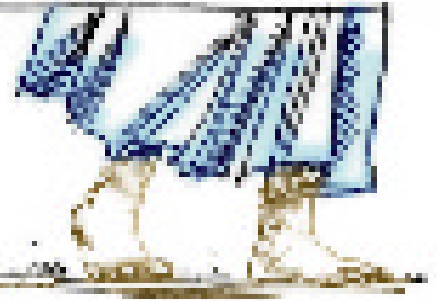
d. Why should we choose to obey Jesus? _____

Living His Way

Our obedience to God is a by-product of our love for Him. Our love for Him is proven through our obedience. Remaining in this love produces eternal fruit. In lesson 11 we will see what that fruit looks like, but for now take a few moments and evaluate where you are with the Lord.

Learning from Jesus "Follow Me."

...learning to live where the load is light



Lesson 10 / Page 5

1. Think how exciting it can be to bear fruit that will last! In what ways do you see the Lord working that out in your life? _____

2. What are some other changes that you can make to bear fruit that will endure? _____

3. In lessons one through nine we've learned many of Jesus' commands. Which ones have been the most challenging for you to apply? _____

4. Have you been trying to produce fruit in your own effort? What do you learn from John 15 that will help you? _____

5. Do you want to live for the glory of God? Then, you will be empowered to bear much fruit, and who will receive all the glory? _____

Remaining, abiding, and living in Christ are the goals of a disciple. We are in Him and He is in us. Read John 15:5 aloud several times. Begin learning it by heart. Reword it in prayer form expressing your desire to remain in Christ, your vine, and bear much fruit.

Summary Statement:

What do you think is the main point of this lesson?

How will you apply this point to your life?

Memorize John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."