

BE THE DISCIPLE WHO WILL ALWAYS BE READY

“It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord.” (Matthew 10:25a KJV)

In July-August we will think together about the importance of the task of discipleship and shepherding in these end times. To be able to become disciples of Christ who are always ready to wait for the second coming of the Lord Jesus, we need to be processed to become the same as the Lord Jesus (Matthew 10:25a) and need to be disciplined and shepherded according to the teachings of Christ (Matthew 28:20). If we truly love God, then we are willing to obey and carry out all His commandments, because His commandments are not heavy (1 John 5:3). Disciples who are willing to be ready are basically students who are willing to be taught to do everything that God has commanded. The word disciple in Matthew 28:19-20 is related to the word teach or teaching in the English translation. The Lord Jesus promised to always accompany His disciples who were willing to be taught until the end of time. When the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt on their way to the promised land they also had to pass through the desert. During the day God walked with them in a pillar of cloud and at night in a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:17-22). God intends to educate/teach His people so that they do not become His followers who are weak, easily defeated by the enemy, and fall into sin. The Israelites were educated so they could become His holy people.

As His disciples, we are also taught by God for our good, even because of His love, sometimes He needs to discipline His children. What for? For our good and so that we may share in His holiness, for without holiness no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). Hebrews 12:10 says, “For they disciplined us for a short time according to what seemed good to them, but He disciplined us for our good, that we might share in His holiness.” Being a disciple of Christ who wants to always be ready means that he wants to always be His disciple who maintains holiness. At His coming, He will appoint His holy disciples. And in Hebrews 12:5-9, there is advice so that we do not take God's discipline lightly and do not despair if we are corrected by Him. God disciplines us because He loves everyone who has been accepted as His child, like a father who truly loves his legitimate children, not "easy children" (illegitimate children). So that every Christian can be sanctified to become a disciple who will always be ready to welcome the second coming of Christ, there also needs to be a factor of continuous mentoring for people who still need to be guided until they can become spiritually mature (Ephesians 4:13).

In the Acts of the Apostles there is a story about Simon who was disciplined. In Acts. 8:13 says, "Simon himself also believed, and after being baptized, he was always with Philip, and was amazed when he saw the great signs and wonders that were taking place." After believing and being baptized, Simon was always with Philip. The sentence "...always together" (in Greek contains the word *proskartereo*) which in English is translated as: to be earnest towards (must be serious about), be constantly diligent (continuously -continuously diligent), to attend assiduously all the exercises (attend diligently all the exercises), to adhere closely to (as a servitor)/to obey closely (as a servant); attend (give self) continually/present and give oneself continuously; continue (continue, carry on), wait on continuously (wait continuously). All of these understandings are very important in a continuous process of discipleship so that a disciple can be increasingly prepared to welcome His coming if he is willing to be educated, nurtured, corrected, and disciplined for his good. Amen!

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