

# MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS

## TITUS 3:8

### True Discipleship

- I. Jesus: Attracts and Repels (Luke 14:25-33)
  - A. Jesus taught this doctrine while great multitudes were with Him.
  - B. It is important to remember that Jesus attracted great multitudes.
    - 1. Jesus increased in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52).
    - 2. This means that men liked Him – He was a favorite in His community.
    - 3. Great crowds made great sacrifices to be near Him.
    - 4. They even wanted to force Him to be their King (John 6:15)!
  - C. Yet, in the midst of attracting men to Him, Jesus spoke truth that caused them to turn away.
    - 1. Luke 11:37-40, 53-54
    - 2. John 6:24-27, 66
  - D. Why would Jesus seek to repel those who had been attracted to Him?
- II. Jesus: Builds and Battles (Matthew 16:13-26)
  - A. Jesus came to save sinners – but to save by changing hearts and lives.
  - B. One who chooses to follow Jesus must first count the cost.
    - 1. A builder counts the cost...
    - 2. A king leading men into war counts the cost...
    - 3. This Jesus taught to the multitudes – and to His disciples.
  - C. Jesus is involved in building and battling.
    - 1. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
    - 2. However, that knowledge and comprehension was to produce action.
    - 3. Jesus said, “I will build my church.”
    - 4. Jesus said, “The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.”
      - a. Jesus would not be defeated by death.
      - b. His church would battle enemies – the last being death.
    - 5. To make the good confession meant to join Jesus in His work.
  - D. Thus, Jesus began to teach His disciples about the cross.
  - E. To be a true disciple, each must be willing to take up his cross.
- III. Jesus: Trust and Obey
  - A. What does it mean to follow Jesus?
    - 1. A little child can understand “follow the leader.”
    - 2. Yet, this doctrine is so profound it can never be exhausted.
  - B. To be a disciple is to follow Jesus by imitating Him.
  - C. To follow Jesus is to trust and obey.
  - D. TRUST – “Let him deny himself”
    - 1. One can practice self-denial without truly denying self.
    - 2. I must do it because the Lord says it, not because I have rationalized it.
    - 3. The Lord must truly be Lord of our lives – King, Captain, Commander!
  - E. OBEY – “Take up his cross”
    - 1. Literally, this means to be willing to die for the Lord and His cause (cf. Acts 22:20; Rev. 2:10, 13; etc.).
    - 2. In application, it means one must be willing to endure suffering.