

**Day 8 ~ HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE**

*"If any man cometh unto Me, and hateth not his own life,  
HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.*

*Whosoever doth not bear his own cross, and come after Me,  
CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.*

*Whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath,  
HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE."*

*Luke 14:26-33*

For the third time Christ speaks about bearing the cross. He gives new meaning to it when He says that a man must hate his own life and renounce all that he has. Thrice over He solemnly repeats the words that without this a man cannot be His disciple.

*"If a man hate not his own life."* And why does Christ make such an exacting demand the condition of discipleship? Because the sinful nature we have inherited from Adam is indeed so vile and full of sin that, if our eyes were only opened to see it in its true nature, we would flee from it as loathsome and incurably evil. *"The flesh is enmity against God"* — the soul that seeks to love God cannot but hate the "old man" which is corrupt through its whole being. Nothing less than this, the hating of our own life, will make us willing to bear the cross and carry within us the sentence of death on our evil nature. It is not till we hate this life with a deadly hatred that we will be ready to give up the old nature to die the death that is its due.

Christ has one word more: *"He that renounceth not all that he hath,"* whether in property or character, *"cannot be My disciple."* Christ claims all. Christ undertakes to satisfy every need and to give a hundredfold more than we give up. It is when by faith we become conscious what it means to know Christ, and to love Him and to receive from Him what can in very deed enrich and satisfy our immortal spirits, that we shall count the surrender of what at first appeared so difficult, our highest privilege.

As we learn what it means that Christ is our life, we shall count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. In the path of following Him, and ever learning to know and to love Him better, we shall willingly sacrifice all, self with its life, to make room for Him who is more than all. ♥