

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

“THANK GOD FOR DISCIPLES”

I. Thank God For Disciples Who Recognize the Cost of Discipleship

- A. Self-denial=curbing the lower self
 - 1. Of what? I John 2:15, Col. 3:5-10
 - 2. Why? Not heartless command
- B. Cross Bearing= 3 words express the darker of life
 - 1. Burden: cares and strains of everyday
 - 2. Thorn: physical or mental limitation
 - 3. Cross: Christ bears the cross of death

We bear the cross of discipleship (Gal. 3:13)
- C. Christ Following= not just cannots but can
 - 1. How? In faith, 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:6
 - 2. Why? We can't direct our own life, Jer. 10:23

II. Thank God For Disciples Who Recognize Their Personal Responsibility

- A. Cain held guilty before God Genesis 4:9,10 his denial didn't relieve him of responsibility
 - 1. We are responsible for our brother
 - Influence and spiritual development
 - 2. Christians cannot live to themselves
 - 3. Paul felt so responsible for others Rom. 9:3
 - 4. He wished himself accursed for others
- B. Esther's extreme interest in her people Esther 4:4-17
 - 1. Esther cares about her people 4, 5
 - 2. Death penalty to approach king
 - 3. "TGFDW" are willing to risk their own lives

III. Thank God For Disciples Who Recognize That Temptation Can Be Overcome

- A. We cannot escape temptation
 - 1. The angels in heaven II Peter 2:4
 - 2. Eve in Paradise II Cor. 11:3
 - 3. Jesus in the wilderness Mark 1:12,13
- B. Encouragement to overcome temptation
 - 1. Never tempted beyond our strength II Cor. 10:13
 - 2. Jesus is a living helper Heb. 2:18
 - 3. God can keep us from falling Jude 24
 - 4. Jesus prays for us Heb. 7:25

IV. Thank God For Disciples Who Believe in Prayer (James 5:16)

- A. Prayer doesn't go through every time the first day
 - 1. Elijah prayed the seventh before his prayer went through - I Kings 18: 42, 44
 - 2. Daniel prayed 21 days before his prayer went - Dan. 10:12,14
 - 3. The oppressed widow made several efforts - Luke 18:1,7
 - 4. Christ prayed 3 times and repeated same prayer - Matt. 26:36-46

READ II Corinthians 4:7-11 & II Tim. 3:12