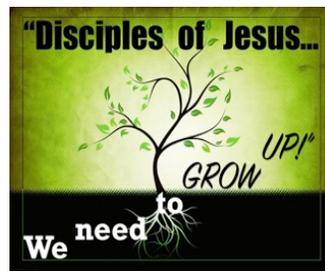


“Disciples of Jesus ... We need to GROW UP!”

Part 25: “GIVING ... loving GOD more than money and things!”

**Malachi 3:6-18; Matthew 6:19-24, 23:23;
II Corinthians 9:6-15**



Introduction: “No one can serve two masters. ... You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24).

I Timothy 6:6-10: “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils” (vs. 10).

I John 2:15: “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

This is not a sermon about money ... it’s about loving GOD !

Disciples of Jesus serve God best by loving Him most and seeking His kingdom first!

I. Disciples of Jesus must love God and seek His kingdom ...

Matthew 6:19-24: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (vs. 21).

You cannot and will not serve God with heartfelt joy and worship unless you LOVE Him!

Malachi 3:6-15: “You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping His charge ...?’” (vs. 14).

Malachi 3:16-18: “Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him” (vs. 18).

God loved them ... and they loved Him back!!!

Matthew 6:25-34: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (vs. 33).

If you love someone it is easy to serve them, to give to them, to share your life with them.

II. Disciples of Jesus trust God to provide for their needs ...

You will not trust God to provide if you do not love God and if you are not convinced that servicing Him is worth it.

Seeking God’s kingdom first requires loving God more than things and trusting Him to provide all you need.

II Corinthians 8:8-9: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich!” (vs. 9).

II Corinthians 9:10-15: “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness” (vs. 10).

Those who love God and who seek His kingdom do not doubt that God will provide for all our needs because we look at the cross (Romans 8:32).

III. Disciples of Jesus give cheerfully and generously of all they have!

II Corinthians 9:6-9: “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver!” (vs. 7).

Righteousness is life lived in obedience to God, setting your heart and mind on HIM rather than yourself. (Hosea 10:12).

Isaiah 55:10-11: “... so shall my Word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose ...” (vs. 11).

Our GOAL is to raise up DISCIPLES !!!

WE are committed to working towards true discipleship ... where loving God, seeking His kingdom, trusting Him to provide and giving cheerfully and generously are the norm, not the exception.

Are you there? Will you join us in praying and working toward this goal? Will you commit your time, your effort and your resources to accomplish all that God has for US to do ... together ... for His glory and for His kingdom???

Disciples of Jesus serve God best by loving Him most and seeking His kingdom first!