

CLASS: SS3
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP II
WEEK: 7
TERM: FIRST TERM

CONTENT

1. The Attitude of Christians Today to God's Call
2. Factors that Militate against Discipleship or Demands of Discipleship (Matt. 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-63; 14:25-33)

THE ATTITUDE OF CHRISTIANS TODAY TO GOD'S CALL

The call to God's service today is a great privilege to those who answer the call promptly and follow the injunctions of God their creator and caller. Note examples of people that left their plump jobs to answer God's call e.g. Dr. W.F. Kumuyi, Pastor E.O. Adeboye, etc.

Some Christians today answered positively to God's call. Examples of such people include:

Mother Theresa of Kolkata

Mother Theresa of Kolkata founded the Missionaries of Charity, an order of nuns, to help those who are starving and sick. As centered in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India, one of the most densely populated cities in the world, the organization also helps impoverished children. After four decades of service to the poor, Mother Teresa stepped down from her role as administrator of the order in 1990. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Pastor (Dr.) W.F. Kumuyi

Pastor (Dr.) W.F. Kumuyi, a man who quit his job as a University Lecturer and embraced the call of God. He is the General Superintendent of Deeper Christian Life Ministry Worldwide.

Pastor & Mrs E.O. Adeboye

Pastor & Mrs E.O. Adeboye of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, also former Mathematics Lecturer in University of Lagos, also responded to the call of God.

Factors that Militate against Discipleship or Demands of Discipleship (Matt. 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-63; 14:25-33)

Discipleship is about two things. The first is to be a true believer in Jesus. The second is to be a devoted follower of Jesus. Jesus taught the disciples about the demands of discipleship.

THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

The demands of discipleship are:

1. Insecurity in discipleship (Matt 8:19-20, Luke 9:57-58)

Jesus taught that one of the demands of discipleship is that there is no security attached to it. There is no personal gain or comfort because it is full of dangers and many risks. This teaching on lack of security in discipleship comes out in Jesus' meeting with scribe. He told Jesus that he wanted to follow him. Jesus said *"Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man has nowhere to lay his head"*

2. God first in discipleship (Luke 9:59-60):

Jesus taught that another demand of discipleship is that the disciple should give the first place to God where a choice has to be made between service to God and to the family. This teaching of Jesus comes out in the story where Jesus asked a young man to follow him. The young man begged that he should first be allowed to go home and bury his father but Jesus said to him: *"Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you go and proclaim the kingdom of God"*.

3. Total commitment in discipleship (Luke 9:61-62)

Another demand of discipleship is total commitment, which is absolute loyalty and not a divided loyalty. The disciple must remain focused and avoid any form of distraction. We can see the example in the encounter of Jesus with someone who told Jesus that he wanted to follow him as his disciple. But first he wanted to go and bid farewell to those at home. Jesus told him *"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God"*.

4. Sacrificing the interest of family and self to discipleship (Luke 14:26)

Jesus said one must be ready to sacrifice the interest of his family and of himself for God. He made this clear when he said: *"If any one comes after me and does*

not hate his own father or mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."

5. Self-denial in discipleship (Luke 14:27)

Jesus taught that to become his disciples one should deny himself and take his cross daily and follow him. *"If any man comes after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me"*.

6. Counting the cost in discipleship (Luke 14:28-32)

Jesus taught that since discipleship is a difficult and dangerous work, one should not rush into it. One should sit down and carefully count the cost involved. Is one ready to endure pain, humiliation, disgrace, and sacrifice family interest for the work of God?

Jesus went on to use analogies about the cost of discipleship. The first analogy was that of a man who wanted to build a tower and the second was a king who wanted to go to war. They both have to sit down and count the cost to find out if they had enough resources to accomplish their projects. Jesus warned that whoever refused to take up his cross and follow Him was not worthy of His calling.

ASSIGNMENT

Two men who had good interest in becoming disciples were rejected by Jesus. Give the reasons why they were rejected.