

Matthew 10:24-33

Characteristics of the Disciple

Big Idea – true disciples are made evident by their character

Prop – 4 characteristics of the true disciple

**Distinctive – Mature**, maturing, people of character

- I. Humble (24-25)
- II. Bold (26-27)
- III. Free (28-31)
- IV. Convinced (32-33)

INTRO: making ice cream – always has cream, eggs and sugar.

Not sorbet – it's an imposter

Disciples – always certain characteristics; if not there maybe he's sorbet

READ

PRAY

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See these in midst of instruction. We will consider the instruction and draw out the principle

Like describing someone, we are unearthing the characteristics of a disciple

- I. Humble (24-25)
  - A. Humble in Perspective - 24
    - Lk 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.
    - Ph 2:3-8
  - B. Humble in Expectation – 25
    - Expect maligning, persecution

APP – what we strive for:

- Humble – look to become like teacher
- 
- Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of christ
- Titus 1:5-9 – character of elder
- 1 Tim 3:8-13 – likewise – deacon
- Process at CBC

Teacher looks to fulfill qualifications

We all look to be like Jesus

## Jesus glorified the Father, through humility

### II. Bold (26-27)

#### A. Bold because of God's work

- God reveals
- God makes known
- v. 19-20
- **1 Co 4:5** Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
- He reveals their heart and he reveals offers to us as we submit to him
- 2 Tim 3:14-17

#### B. Bold in proclaiming God's Word – 27

- What learn in study/QT
- Proclaim
- **Acts 17:23** For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

Humble, bold

### III. Free (28-31)

#### A. Free from fearing man – 28

- Fear theme 26, 28, 31
- **Pro 29:25** - The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.
- Mat 6:21 - where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Do you treasure man's approval or God's

#### B. Free due to fearing God – 28b-31

- Fear not as phobia, terror
- Fear as awe, reverence
- Pro 9:10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- Dt 31:6 – as Moses prepares Israel to enter the land:

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.

- Heb 13:6 - "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

App – know your value 31

Know His omniscience – 30

Know His omnipotence – 29

Be free as a slave

IV. Convinced (32-33)

A. Convinced of the truth of Christ

- Confess because you're convinced
- Acknowledge
- Rom 8:31-9

B. Convinced of the love of Christ

- His confession based on His work which is based on His love
- Jn 3:16 – For God...

APP –

- Think of marriage proposal – convinced of your love, you confess it and anticipate it being reciprocated
- v. 33

APP/Conclusion:

**Distinctive – Mature**

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Portrait – Dave & Maeve

MacArthur - Nero was Emperor. And Nero wanted around him some of the finest men of Roman stock. And so he identified his own personal wrestlers, known as the "Emperor's Wrestlers." And he wanted them selected from the bravest and the strongest and most stalwart of all of the Roman athletes. They were like the Olympic team of Rome. And they surrounded the Roman amphitheatre.

They attended the arms of the emperor. They were around all the time. And they had a famous statement that they said, according to historians. "We, the wrestlers, wrestling for thee. O Emperor.

to win for thee the victory and from thee, the victor's crown."

That was their motto - We, the wrestlers, wrestling for thee O Emperor, to win for thee the victory and from thee, the victor's crown.

On one occasion the Roman army, including these great wrestlers, was sent representing the Romans into Gaul, to put down some kind of rebellion. No soldiers were braver, or more capable

than the wrestlers of the Emperor. They were led by a centurion under the name of Vespasian, who was also a brilliant man.

But while they were in Gaul, history tells us, that many of them were converted to Jesus Christ. Word came back to Nero that some of his personal wrestlers had become Christians, and he sent a message to Vespasian that said: "If there be any among your soldiers who cling to the faith of the Christian, they must die."

The decree was received in the dead of winter in Gaul. The soldiers were encamped on the shore of a frozen inland lake. And with a sinking heart, Vespasian, the centurion, read the message.

He called the soldiers together and asked the question: "Are any of you those who have embraced the Christian faith?" And forty of them stepped forward, and saluted him. He said, "I give you till sundown tomorrow to deny that or you must die."

At sundown the next day he asked the same question. The same forty men stepped forward. He said, "I cannot allow you to die at the hands of your fellows, I strip you naked and banish you to the middle of the lake and leave you to the elements." And so he stripped them bare and sent them to the middle of the lake in the dead of night...frozen in the winter.

Not long after they had arrived there, he heard this coming across the ice. "Forty wrestlers, wrestling for Thee, O Christ, to win for Thee the victory, and from Thee, the victor's crown."

And he heard it again and again through the night, and it grew fainter and fainter as the morning came.

Finally, near morning one lonely figure approached the fire who could not stand the coldness with the others and who did not hold to the faith in Christ that firmly that he should die, and he came to warm himself and admitted that he had denied Christ.

And then the cry came faintly across the ice; "Thirty nine wrestlers, wrestling for Thee, O Christ, to win for Thee the victory, and from Thee the victor's crown."

Vespasian by this time was utterly overwhelmed. And God did something in his heart at that moment, and he threw off his helmet and all of his armor, took off across the ice shouting at the top of his voice, "Forty wrestlers, wrestling for Thee, O Christ, to win for Thee the victory, and from Thee, the victor's crown."

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Rom 8:32 He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him, graciously give us all things?