

"Disciples Are Not..."  
Pastor Wally Contreras  
March 1, 2020

"Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 'A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.'" (Matthew 10:16-20)

\* \* \* \* \*

Pastor Wally pointed out that the family when Jesus walked among us was the "extended" family which included mothers, fathers, their parents, and could include aunts and uncles and children who lived in close proximity to one another. As we discussed during last Wednesday's "Digging Deeper" session, in the 1950s and 60s, we had the "nuclear" family which consisted of the father, mother and their children living in one household - they flock together like objects around a nucleus (e.g., an atom). What has the "family" evolved to in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and how is it being normalized?

Today's Scripture speaks of betrayal within the family, that disciples will not be loved by those around them. Webster, 1828 defines betrayal as being "...deliver[ed] into the hands of an enemy by treachery or fraud, in violation of trust; as, an officer betrayed the city." The term also means, "To disclose, or permit to appear, what is intended to be kept secret, or what prudence would conceal; to fail, or deceive." In what way(s) are families being betrayed by other family members? Explain.

Today's Scripture goes on to say that I "will be hated by all for my name's sake." The great commission in Matthew 28:19 commands me to "Go and make disciples of all the nations." But there is another use of the phrase in Matthew 24:9, "You will be hated by all the nations because of My name." Am I willing to not only love the nations, but also to be hated by the nations? If so, why so? If not, why not?

How much of a personal cost am I really willing to "endure" for the sake of the Kingdom and why?

Jesus tells me that I will be “hated by all” but political correctness probably keeps people from saying that they actually “hate” Christians...but in what way(s) are Christians being “tolerated” or “minimized” by non-Christians by the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Pastor Wally said that disciples “endure” – that we are not quitters. When I’m “enduring” a particularly painful situation, do I tend to think that, by default, I must be stagnant, unmoving...to tolerate the pain in order to “endure” the painful situation? If so, why so? If not, why not?

Romans 5:3-5 reminds me that “...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” So, when’s the last time that I rejoiced in my suffering because of the benefits that the Romans passage promises will come from it? Explain.

Pastor Wally spoke of the promise from God found in James 1:12 (“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”) How well do I “remain steadfast” when faced with dissatisfaction at work?

How well do I “remain steadfast” when I’m faced with Satan’s temptations?

How well do I “remain steadfast” when faced with health issues?

How well do I “remain steadfast” when I’m facing the loss of a family member?

How well do I “remain steadfast” when I’m struggling in my marriage?

How well do I “remain steadfast” when facing a large financial debt?

Discuss Pastor Wally’s point that the statement that God won’t give me more than I can handle is a lie.

Pastor Wally said that “our work will never be done until Christ returns.” What is the work that won’t be completed until Jesus returns and am I working as a full-time employee for Him, part-time employee, on extended vacation, or unemployed and why?

Pastor Wally discussed the point that disciples are not greater than their Master. “A student doesn't get a better desk than her teacher. A laborer doesn't make more money than his boss. Be content—pleased, even—when you, my students, my harvest hands, get the same treatment I get. If they call me, the Master, ‘Dungface,’ what can the workers expect?” (Matthew 10:24-25, The Message) How difficult is it for me to be “content – pleased, even” when my efforts to advance the Kingdom are met with severe opposition? Explain.

C.H. Spurgeon said “If we say that we are in Christ and abide in him, we must take care that our life and character are conformed to Christ, or else we shall be making an empty boast. This is true of every man who says he is in Christ, for the text [1 John 2:6] is put in the most general and absolute manner: be the man old or young, rich or poor, learned or simple, pastor or hearer, it is incumbent upon him to live like Christ if he professes to live in Christ... it is the design of God that those who are in Christ should walk as Christ walked. It is a part of the original covenant purpose; for "whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son." So what does it mean to me to “walk as Christ walked”...”to be conformed to the image of his Son”?

How can I “embrace the tension of the “now but not yet” and live for the Kingdom come?

### Ways to Walk Like Jesus Walked

1. Micah 6:8 “He has made it clear to you, mortal man, what is good and what the LORD is requiring from you— to act with justice, to treasure the LORD’s gracious love, and to walk humbly in the company of your God.”
2. Colossians 1:10-11 “so that you might live in a manner worthy of the Lord and be fully pleasing to him as you bear fruit while doing all kinds of good things and growing in the full knowledge of God. You are being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might, so that you might patiently endure everything with joy.”
3. Deuteronomy 8:6 “Observe the commands of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.”
4. Romans 13:13 “Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.”

5. Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.”
  7. 2 Chronicles 7:17-18 “As for you, if you faithfully follow me as David your father did, obeying all my commands, decrees, and regulations, then I will establish the throne of your dynasty. For I made this covenant with your father, David, when I said, ‘One of your descendants will always rule over Israel.’”
  8. John 4:32-34 “But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about. Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?” “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.”
  9. 1 John 2:6 “The one who says he resides in God ought himself to walk just as Jesus walked.”
  10. Hebrews 10:22 “let us continue to come near with sincere hearts in the full assurance that faith provides, because our hearts have been sprinkled clean from a guilty conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.”
  11. Hebrews 12:2 “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”
  12. Luke 10:27 “And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.”
  13. Romans 8:29 “Because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”
  14. Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”
  15. Luke 18:13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even look up to heaven. Instead, he continued to beat his chest and said, ‘O God, be merciful to me, the sinner that I am!’”
  16. 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
  17. 2 Corinthians 5:7 “Indeed, our lives are guided by faith, not by sight.”
  18. Romans 1:17 “For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”
  19. Galatians 5:16 “I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”
- John 8:12 “Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”