

TO BE LIKE CHRIST IS ENOUGH

Matthew 10:16-25

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The highest praise that can be given to another is call him/her "Christ-Like." Ever notice how that years of living together couples take on each other's characteristics. Some say that they even begin to look alike. Years spent in close communion with the Lord Jesus will cause one to take on some of the likeness of the Lord Jesus, not all but some. In trying to be like Christ, one must remember that what Jesus endured, how Jesus was treated, the misunderstandings, the burdens, the heart breaks that He experienced, will also be shared IF one wants to be like Jesus Christ. What Jesus experienced, will also be experienced to some degree or other by any who want to be Christ-like.

I. BEING LIKE CHRIST WILL BRING WEARINESS

1. Often Jesus grew so weary of all that He had been doing for others that He would have to find a place to rest.
 - Once He fell asleep in the front of a fishing boat.
 - Often He would have to get away from the multitude who were always around Him and find a quiet place to rest.
 - Even when He was carrying His cross, He became so weary that someone (Simon of Cyrene) had take the cross from Him and finish carrying it to Calvary.
2. It would be great to never grow tired or weary in serving the Lord, but even Jesus grew tired.
 - There were hours when the Lord was totally exhausted and it is enough, He says, that we be like Him.
 - So if one is trying to be like Christ, there will come times of weariness and a time of rest will be needed.

II. BEING LIKE CHRIST WILL CAUSE ONE TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD AT TIMES

1. Experienced pastors know very well that not everybody understands the intent of his message and often they go away with questions and that is always bothersome to the pastor.
 - After hours of preparation and prayer the pastor presents his thoughts to his congregation but he always has some who just don't "get it."
2. Being misunderstood by those one loves is perhaps one of the hardest things to bear.
 - Jesus' disciples didn't always understand Jesus.
 - When Jesus did miraculous things such as healing, He was accused of healing in the name of the Devil.
 - Even when Jesus was on the cross and cried out, those around Him thought He was calling on some prophet.
 - Being misunderstood during His ministry perhaps hurt Jesus more than the piercing of the nails.
 - A little more gratitude along the way would have made a lot of difference but it was absent.
3. Being like Christ will cause one to endure misunderstanding and it will hurt more when it comes from those dear and loved by the one being like Christ.

III. BEING LIKE CHRIST DOES NOT EXEMPT ONE FROM FEELING HE/SHE HAS FAILED

1. Doing physical work usually has visible, audible results and one can look back over what he/she has been doing and see results.
2. When one is dealing with souls, trying to win them over to the Lord Jesus, visible, audible results are seldom seen and there comes a sense of questioning whether anything worth while was accomplished and even an overwhelming sense of total failure - "What's The Use?" floods one's mind and heart.
 - Many a pastor mentally "resigns" his pastorate on Mondays because of the sense of failure on the previous Sunday.
 - Some pastors actually follow through with their Monday resignation thoughts and actually resign and never go back to the pulpit again.
 - Is sensing that one has failed the Lord Jesus alien from trying to be like Christ?
3. Remember the evening Jesus stood outside Jerusalem one evening and said, "*...O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not...*" (Luke 13:34).
 - What was Jesus' feelings at the moment? Victory? Hardly, He felt He had failed because the people didn't believe what He was saying and were trying to get rid of Him.
 - If Jesus couldn't persuade everyone around Him to believe Him and mourned for their not doing so, feeling perhaps that He could have done more, then anyone today who is trying to be like Christ, must realize that he/she is going to have that same feeling that Jesus experienced of feeling like He failed the people.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus life was not filled with victories, quite the opposite.
 - Many believed in Him, but most did not.
 - People were always trying to entrap Him by His teachings.
 - He was made fun of, ridiculed, hated, threatened, and finally captured, tried and put to death.
2. Jesus wants believers in Him to be like Him, so therefore, one's life is going to be like that which Jesus lived - weariness, misunderstanding, feelings of failure.
3. What more could a believer want in his/her life than to be like Jesus Christ?
4. DO YOU WANT TO BE CHRIST LIKE? Then expect the same difficulties that Jesus endured.