



When we hear the word RADICAL it usually has a different connotation. Radical may mean political activist. They are those who support extreme political beliefs. But let us understand what Radical is. Radical is derived from the Latin word RADIX meaning "ROOT". One of the key meanings of the word RADICAL is return to the root

The word RADICAL in the context of discipleship means: Revolutionary and Distinct (kind of Christians).

- 1.) Fundamental and Foundational (We should be learning the very basic and important teachings of Jesus).
- 2.) Thorough and Complete (faith in following Jesus). This means that we have to be 100%. Ask the person beside you, "Are you 100%?"

Jesus was a radical. In fact, His call to discipleship is a radical one. Matthew 4:19-20 - "19 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' 20 At once they left their nets and followed him (NIV)." His calling is revolutionary. He demands for dramatic obedience. Notice: Jesus did not stop there. In Luke 9:23, "Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me (NIV).'" This is definitely radical. Jesus didn't just ask them to focus on becoming fishers of men but He's asking them to deny themselves and take up the cross daily and follow Him.

The radical discipleship is largely lost in the churches right now. This is why some churches want to make Christianity look too appealing to non-Christians so they preach about exaggerated grace and blessing. The pastors don't preach anymore about counting the cost of following Jesus (Luke 14:28). Some pastors don't preach anymore about conviction on sins such as living together outside marriage or getting drunk or living a holy life. They just want to preach what people want to hear. They only preach about God's grace and mercy. They only preach about promises of healing, blessings and abundance.

## **PATHS TO WALK TO BECOME A RADICAL DISCIPLE OF CHRIST**

### **THE PATH OF HOLINESS**

Proverbs 2:20-22 - "20 Thus you will walk in the ways of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. 21 For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it; 22 but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it." (NIV)

Rev. Edmund Chan said, "Radical discipleship leads us into the inner sanctum of God's holiness." Leviticus 11:44a - "I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy...(NIV)" Holiness simply means set apart. Therefore, Radical discipleship sets us apart for God.

I know how hard it is to walk in the path of holiness. But when I realized how special I am to be set apart for God, it blew my mind. Does it feel good to know that we're special to God? Does it feel good that God is telling us to live a holy life because we mean a lot to Him? We are to be DISTINCT from the world because of the inward journey set for us by God. One mistake that we often experience is to confuse being DISTINCTIVE and being DIFFERENT. Christians often think that we have to be different compared to others. This is why people think of us as weirds. Non-Christians don't want to go near us because we're boring. We prohibit things that God's word didn't say was forbidden. We judge people in accordance to our standard and not based on God's standard. This is why our rules are stricter than God's. Again, We are called to be DISTINCT from the world, not merely DIFFERENT from it.

Radical discipleship makes us distinct from the inside out. Romans 12:1-2 - "1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will" (NIV)

Thus, Holiness is not merely external. It is not simply behavioral modification without inner change. Holiness is an inner journey where our characters are molded and forged. A journey through which our values are changed. True holiness sets us free. This is the power of radical holiness.

### **THE PATH OF HUMILITY**

Psalms 25:8-9 - "Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way." (NIV)

Radical discipleship is first and foremost an inward journey. It begins with a personal encounter with Jesus. Discipleship is holistic. Discipleship is both an INWARD and OUTWARD journey. But more importantly, we should remember that discipleship is an UPWARD journey. It all comes back to know where to look. According to Rev. Edmund Chan, Discipleship is an INWARD journey, with an OUTWARD dimension, anchored upon UPWARD values and standards.

Too often, we focus on a discipleship that is merely outward looking. Therefore, Discipleship becomes but a list of disciplines; a demanding checklist of DOs and DON'Ts. It becomes a rigid requirement intended only for spiritual elites.

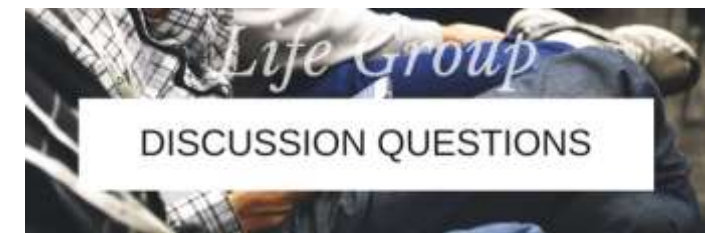
To counter that, we are taught to look inwards. We have to cultivate our inner life. It is great to cultivate our inner life...but...it is not the starting point. The starting point is to LOOK UP. This is the spiritual anchor. When we develop our INWARD life with an OUTWARD dimension anchored upon UPWARD values, it invariably points to the essential virtues of holiness and humility.

Therefore, it is advisable for us to take time each week to have personal reflection. Think about holiness. Think about humility. Always have personal reflection to check if we're still holy and humble before God.

Discipleship is compromised when we wrongly start with US. The center of gravity is NOT US. The center of gravity is JESUS. When we walk with Jesus in His discipleship, we cannot ignore the essential marks of holiness and humility. They are the chief marks of the Master. Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (NIV)." Christ can primarily be seen in a person's life through his humility. Are you willing to serve or you want to be served?

Another compromise in terms of discipleship is how we define success in the ministry. SUCCESS alone is NOT a mark of spiritual maturity and faithfulness. SUCCESS is not a true benchmark for evaluating a ministry. sometimes, NOT. Such an instant gratification worldview is not biblical. SUCCESS is not the standard for Christian ministry. Success itself is not a dirty word. Success itself is not wrong. Under the hands of God, success is good and wonderful, in God's perfect time and way.

The focus of Christian ministry should be faithfulness and fruitfulness. For that, we need people of integrity. And if we fail, we need to repent, pick ourselves up, re-dedicate ourselves to God and move on, in His grace, in holiness and humility.



1. What are the things in your life that you think should be changed radically?
2. How do you cultivate your inner relationship with Jesus?
3. What does success mean to you?
- 4.) How comfortable are you serving others, share?