

**“The Stages Of Discipleship” *John 6:28-34***

**Jesus said the discipleship is costly because it involves: 1. Denying self 2. Taking up your own cross and 3. Following Him wherever He leads.**

**Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost’s three stages**

**of discipleship: 1. Curious 2. *Convinced* 3. Committed**

**God evaluates our motivation even more so than our outward actions Heb 4:12-13.**

**To reject the Lord Jesus Christ’s testimony is to call God a liar!**

**A hardened heart refers to a believer or unbeliever having a negative reaction either passive or active away from God and His truth instead of a positive response toward God and His truth.**

**The Twelve failed to process any more biblical truth than the multitude of people did in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ’s mission being a universal spiritual reconciliation of mankind**

**to God and not a specific political restoration of the nation of Israel to temporary freedom. Everything was great when Jesus fed the masses but when He switched gears to the crux of the matter and taught biblical truth as to Who He was and the real reason He came to earth; it was just too much for them to handle.**

**Teaching biblical truth always causes people to peel off because most people don’t want to have to think; they just want emotional stimulation with a heavy dose of excitement that makes them feel good; they don’t want the depth of serious truth content that changes who they are.**

**Jesus did not come to earth to do something He could have easily done from Heaven, that is to heal people and remove all suffering.**

**When He selectively healed, He demonstrated to all observing and many who later heard of the incidents, that He had power over incurable sickness and debilitating disease as Israel’s true Messiah.**

***It was the power, not the Person, the stimulation not the Scriptures; sound familiar?***

**The Jews of Jesus’ day weren’t looking for God’s suffering Servant Messiah, they were looking for political freedom through military victory headed by a valiant fighting man-Messiah.**

**During the Age of Israel, the Jews were to be the responsible custodians of the Word of God and the preaching of the Gospel and so Israel was to be God’s missionary command post because they had custodianship of His Word.**

***Those who became born-again were to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and to evangelize with His Gospel of grace.***

**The Jews had a perfect system for preaching the Gospel: the Levitical feasts, the offerings, the holy days and yet they fumbled then but they'll successfully evangelize during the Tribulation as an important part of their future.**

The nation of Israel was founded on regeneration; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph were born-again believers and the leadership of Israel had some outstanding believers in Moses, Joshua, David and Daniel.

*The racial Jew is under a curse today and scattered (5th cycle of discipline), all over the world, yet the individual Jew does not lose his identity.*

**There are three types of Jews: 1) A racial Jew is anyone with the genes of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**

**2) The regenerate Jew is part of the remnant according to faith in Jesus Christ and**

**3) The religious Jew is non-regenerate.**

All nations are founded on physical birth except the nation of Israel which was founded on the new birth of regeneration.

*In our story, the Jews of Jesus' day are racial and non-regenerate for the most part and as such, they are seeking political freedom from Rome over spiritual-freedom from their bondage to sin.*

**Perhaps the worse form of government is to be ruled by a religious person or someone who is influenced by religious people.**

The Lord Jesus Christ sets an example for all believers in not using the Word of God or the power of God to further a political cause.

*The Lord Jesus Christ will overthrow Rome at His Second Advent! Remember the cross comes before the crown.*

Every political organization must have a game plan.

These people do not want to follow the Lord Jesus Christ's plan, they want Him to follow theirs.

**Isa 64:6 All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**

**Titus 3:5a He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy.**

*Politics has works, Religion has works and Humanitarianism has works but Christianity has only one work!*

**1st John 3:23a And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.**

**Q: What is the work of God?**