

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple”

Luke 14:26

The Requirement for Discipleship:

“Detachment”

“Detachment” ... (1)

- Is not only required for relationships and possessions, but extends to worldly concerns, selfishness, vanity and seeking pleasures.
- Is what allows us to live for a greater purpose than ourselves; like salt.
- It is what made Abraham the icon of faith when he parted with home, possessions and his own son for the sake of following God’s call for him.

“Detachment” ... (2)

- Is what the disciples, Levi, Zacchaeus, and all those who loved the Lord sought when they wanted to follow Him. *“So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him” (Luke 5:11)*
- Improper attachment is what hindered the young rich ruler from answering the Lord’s call and caused him to leave sorrowfully.

“Detachment” ... (3)

- Improper attachment is what transformed Lot’s wife into non-functioning salt thrown out of Sodom.
- Is the cost that needs to be counted before we start to build the tower and launch the war.

Holding All Things with Open Hands

- “If you truly love God and long to reach the kingdom that is to come, if you are truly pained by your failings and are mindful of punishment and of the eternal judgment, if you are truly afraid to die, then it will not be possible to have an attachment, or anxiety, or concern for money, for possessions, for family relationships, for worldly glory, for love and brotherhood, indeed for anything of earth. All worry about one’s condition, even for one’s body, will be pushed aside as hateful. Stripped of all thoughts of these, caring nothing about them, one will turn freely to Christ.”

--St. John Climacus