

**“And whoever does
not bear his cross
and come after Me
cannot be My
disciple”**

Luke 14:27



**The Number
One Enemy
to our
discipleship to
the Lord:**

FEELINGS!



Highlights

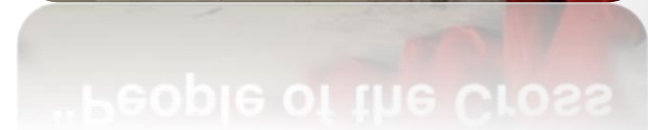
1. Enemy of discipleship
2. Nature of “Feelings”
3. Governed by “Feelings”
4. Safe with “Feelings”



I. Enemy of discipleship ⁽¹⁾

❑ Requirements of discipleship:

- Love God above everyone and everything else
- Carry the Cross
- Plan the cost



I. Enemy of discipleship ⁽²⁾

□ “Feelings” interference:

- Attachments and the priorities' mess
- Self-pity
- Moving with passion not with a plan



II. Nature of “Feelings”

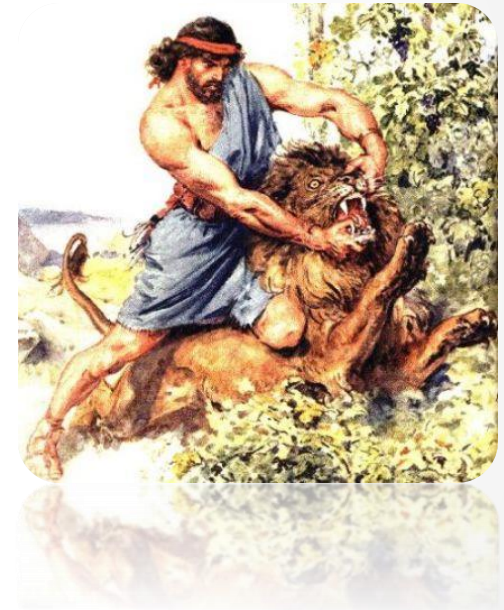
1. Strong, able to generate huge energy
2. Quick
3. Can suspend the work of the mind
4. Don't last long
5. Not easily governed



III. Governed by “Feelings” ⁽¹⁾

1. A problem with decision-making:

- The example of Samson and picking his wife from Timnah:



III. Governed by “Feelings” (2)

- “Then his father and mother said to him, ‘Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?’ And Samson said to his father, ‘Get her for me, for she pleases me well.’” *Judges 14:3-4*

III. Governed by “Feelings” ⁽³⁾

2. Inability to submit to a reference:

- Discerning between right and wrong: Saul with the Amalekites, King Uzziah and offering incense, etc.



III. Governed by “Feelings” (4)

2. Inability to submit to a reference:

(cont.)

- Right and wrong have no place in the world of “Feelings”!
- Good and bad are decided based upon how it feels!
- All doctrines, creeds, and reasons fail before, “I feel”!



III. Governed by “Feelings” (5)

3. The continuous urge to change at all times
4. Seeking after entertainment even in serious situations
5. Defining success and failure based on feelings - the impact on worship



IV. Safe with “Feelings” ⁽¹⁾

1. “Feelings” are like sand: you need it for construction, but can’t build with it alone
2. For a mature person, “good feelings” are more of contentment rather than a thrill



IV. Safe with “Feelings” ⁽²⁾

3. Even with a wrong first reaction, maturity will make the latter one right, e.g., the Parable of the Two Sons:



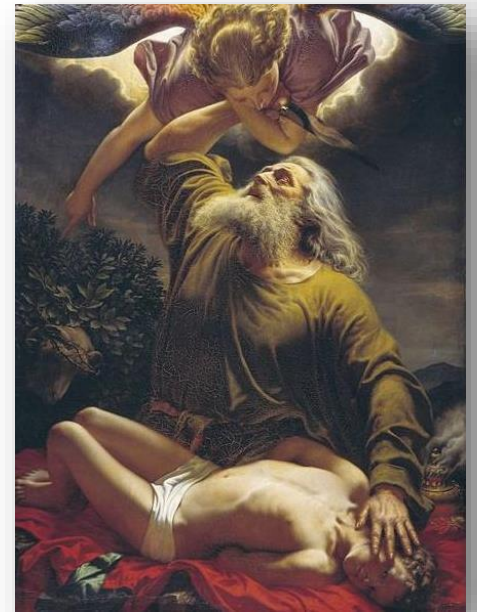
IV. Safe with “Feelings” ⁽³⁾

- “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’ He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father? ”They said to Him, “The first.” *Matthew 21:28-32*

IV. Safe with “Feelings” (4)

4. Loving God is an act of the will and not just mere emotions:

- “If you love Me, keep my commandments”
- “Feed My sheep”
- Offering Isaac



5. Loving the enemy is a choice

- not a feeling

IV. Safe with “Feelings” (5)

6. Maintaining a relationship is a decision of commitment not subject to the sheer pressure of boredom
7. Success in God's way is in perseverance in doing His will



IV. Safe with “Feelings” ⁽⁶⁾

8. Stability is crucial if spiritual growth through worship is to be attained

- Feelings might not welcome it at the beginning, but will cherish it at the end

