



Can you spare some change?

Read: Matthew 16:21-27

In the gospel Jesus outlines the requirements of discipleship. A disciple changes their personal and spiritual behaviours so they align with the gospel.

The first step to spiritual change is worship. As Romans 12:1-2 says, worship aligns our priorities with those of God. Worship keeps us from being “conformed to this world”. It is the movement of a heart that has become dependent on God. Worship reminds us that God must take the priority in our lives. God wants us to enjoy the pleasures and comforts this world affords, but when they take priority over Him (worship), our souls become endangered. A heart that has no space for God to enter cannot love him.

The second step is to cleanse our bodies of everything unholy. 2 Corinthians 7:1 that we must “purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit”. We cleanse our bodies by controlling what we allow into our minds and hearts. What we watch, listen to and invest our time in can clutter our spiritual lives. A lot of what we “consume”, is spiritually unhealthy and we should carefully evaluate what we invest in.

The third step is to control our desires. 1 Thessalonians says, “Control your own body in a way that is holy and honourable” (4:4). Once we encounter Jesus, and remove the sinful habits that keep us from following him, we must continue to control our desires and make worship a priority.

Change is not easy, but with God’s grace and persistence it can occur. It begins with placing God first (worship), evaluating our priorities and committing to reform. God will not force us to be in a relationship with him. We can choose other things over him, but it could cost us our eternal reward.