

55.1 Disciples or Dabblers, Part 1

Greetings, Patriots! This is Perry Greene with GNA. Today we begin a short series I have entitled “Disciples or Dabblers?” Are we devoted to Jesus or just dabbling with some of His words and ideas? Are we committed to Him or is He merely a convenience?

A few days ago, I started thinking about the real strength of America in our early years. While everyone was not a devoted follower of Jesus, many of our leaders were. The Founders set the pace for the nation as they followed God. The Constitution and other documents reflect their devotion to God and His Son. These men did more than dabble with discipleship, they were devoted disciples. Jesus was not a mere convenience to them but their true King and Master.

1. Jesus came into the world to “*seek and save the lost*” (**Luke 19:10**). In doing so, he changed people from being the followers of Satan to becoming His disciples. Jesus did what Rabbis do, they make disciples.
2. To be a disciple, we must follow the precepts and instructions of the one we follow. In fact, one must want to be like his or her rabbi. Paul was a rabbi and urged his disciples to “*Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ*” in **1 Corinthians 11:1** (NKJV).
3. Jesus made discipleship even plainer **Matthew 16:24** (NKJV):
Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” Then **Luke 14:33** (NKJV):
³³ *So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.*
Do you feel the seriousness of following Jesus?
4. America’s Founding Fathers were not just politicians or statesmen who wanted to establish “*a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal*” as Abraham Lincoln reiterated in his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863.
5. The Founders were men of integrity who devoted themselves to Jesus and His words. As a result
 - a. They knew the difference between a government that was good and a tyrannical one.
 - b. They knew the inalienable rights God had given and were set to defend them, not just to enjoy the luxury of liberty, but to do the right thing.
 - c. It is always right to resist the evil that opposes God. Rebellion to tyrants IS obedience to God!
 - d. Let me remind you of the words of two of our Founders, John Adams and Benjamin Rush.

Can we win? John Adams to Benjamin Rush

Upon my return from the army to Baltimore in the winter of 1777, I sat next to John Adams in Congress, and upon my whispering to him and asking him if he thought we could succeed in our struggle with Great Britain, he answered me, “Yes, if we fear God and repent of our sins.”

Benjamin Rush’s view of his political stance – “Christocrat”

I have been alternately called an Aristocrat and a Democrat. I am neither. I am a Christocrat. I believe all power...will always fail of producing order and happiness in the hands of man. He alone who created and redeemed man is qualified to govern him.

President John Adams – the strength of our government

“We have no government armed with power capable of continuing with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Greed, ambition, revenge, or seduction would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

Let’s Keep The Light of *Devoted Discipleship* Burning!