***Discipleship #3 – “A Disciple’s Dream” – Luke 9:18-26***

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**Introduction**

1. Every disciple has a dream. Jesus puts it this way: “A disciple is not above his master: but everyone that is perfect shall be as his master” (Luke 6:40). The heroic life Jesus lived is both the *disciple’s dream* and the *Master’s demand*!
2. We have been called by Christ to discipleship with the simple, yet sweeping challenge, “Follow Me.”
3. **The Dream Demands A Decision (Luke 9:20)**
   1. His Identity and Our Duty
      1. From His first sermon to His last revelation, Jesus demands decisions about His *identity* and our *duty*! We must decide between serving “two masters,” between being “cold or hot.”
      2. But all of these decisions are contingent upon our answer to that one crucial question: “But who do you say that I am?” (Luke 9:20). Is He just a man or is He God?
4. **The Dream Demands A Denial (Luke 9:23)**
   1. A Choice Between Self and Jesus
      1. Jesus said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).
      2. Jesus demands to be chosen above all else and all others even to the denial of competing claims of a father, mother, wife, child, brother, or sister (Luke 14:26).
      3. Forsaking all for the Master is a simple matter, once we forsake self!
5. **The Dream Demands A Death (Luke 9:24)**
   1. Death As A Way Of Life
      1. “Whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it” (Luke 9:24). Deciding to live the Master’s life necessitates a radical rejection of your former value system and lifestyle!
      2. For the disciple, this death is more than an event; it becomes *a way of life*! (1 Corinthians 15:31; 2 Corinthians 4:10; Romans 12:1-2; John 15:13; Galatians 2:20)
6. **The Dream Demands A Devotion (Luke 9:25-26)**
   1. A Life Of Work Worthy of Undying Devotion
      1. Without such devotion, the disciple will eventually *deny* the Master.
7. **The Dream’s Design**
   1. Being Conformed Into the Image Of Jesus (Romans 8:29-30)
      1. Are you pleased with the plan your life has been following? Do you even have a plan? Would you consider following the Master’s plan? It is a real disciple’s dream, but it is only for *real* disciples!