**Diet Christianity** *\*\*Series Graphic\*\**

***Diet Coke slogans:***

*“Just for the taste of it. Less than one calorie.”*

*“Just for the cool of it.”*

*“Stay extraordinary.”*

*“Love what you love.”*

***Lite Beer slogans:***

*“Tastes great, less filling.”*

*“Everything you want and everything you don’t want.”*

Diet Christianity does taste great, **but it’s less filling**.

*“The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell.” -William Booth (1829-1912)*

(2 Timothy 3:1-5)

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— **having a form of godliness but denying its power**. Have nothing to do with such people.”

Diet Christianity promises us that we can **live** the way we **want** to **live** and do what **we want to do**.

**The Problem**: Christian Nominalism.

**The Solution:** Christian Discipleship

**Disciple:** *to follow, to let another lead, to become a learner* ***(FOLLOWER OF JESUS)***

* **Aorist active imperative tense**
* Imperative: “command”
* Aorist active: “action without end”

(Matthew 16:24-25)

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must **deny themselves** and **take up their cross** and **follow me**. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me **will find it**.”

(Luke 14:28-33”

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and **estimate the cost** to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.**In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples**.”

**The Cost of Discipleship**:

1. Self-denial.
2. Willingness to suffer.
3. Sacrifice comforts and conveniences.
4. Submit to God’s will.
5. Sacrificial love for others.
6. Risk of being rejected.
7. Radical obedience.
8. Make a difference.
9. Walk in forgiveness.
10. Live with generosity.

Jesus didn’t come to make our normal, selfish, sinful lives a little better. **He came to transform life as we know it radically**.

**The Essential Starting Point**

1. Discipleship begins with a genuine response to the invitation to **follow Jesus**.
2. Such a response requires **admitting** you’ve failed and **turning away** from evil.
3. To follow Jesus means to let him **lead**.
4. A sign of this new life is going public before others with **baptism**.

My 2025 Commitment: **I’m going to follow Jesus**.