

THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET
and we've got our marching orders for 2024, picking up
our CROSS, spiritual progression, better today-than yesterday.

We're **DOING THE BIBLE!!**



Luke 9:23

If anyone desires to come after Me,
let him deny himself,
take up his cross daily,
and follow me.

— — — — — — — —

#15. Across = **Deny (self)**
refuse to give or grant something

#4. Down = **Immerse**
involve oneself deeply in a particular activity

#1. Down = **Eagerness (study/grow)**
excited by ardent desire, in pursuit

#5. Across = **Commissioned**
sent out to fulfill a particular purpose

#6. Across = **Reliance (on God)**
dependance, confidence, trust

#8. Across = **Progress**
move forward toward a more developed state

#12. Across = (Bringing God) **Glory**
praise, honor, distinction extended

#16. Across = **Separate (ourselves)**
to set or keep apart



DISCIPLE

(N) Dedicated **follower** of Jesus **#10 Down**

(V) **Process** of becoming like Christ, being made by Him

(V) **Becoming** EVERYTHING God created you to be

One who is actively seeking to become like Jesus through the consistent study & application of His teaching and the imitation of His person.

Matthew 28:19-20

(Disciple) Follower

A believer who is growing in knowledge and love for God and love for others. A learner. Serving. Taking classes. Studying the Word. Cultivating Prayer life. Obeying God's commands.

Disciple Maker

You have invited someone to walk with you, as you follow Jesus. Intentional relationship where you are pouring into another, teaching & modeling the ways of Jesus, and how to center their lives in Him, grow in faith & a deeper life in Christ.



2 Timothy 2:2
..Faithful men who
will be able to teach
others also

Fisherman

(Evangelism) You are sharing your faith, your testimony, sharing Jesus, loving others, inviting to church, intentional about leading folks to Christ, look for opportunity to

Multiplier

This is achieved once those you've poured into and discipled begin to pour into and disciple others. Multiplying our lives in others. The 2 you poured into, each are pouring into 2 themselves - 2 has multiplied into 6!



Commissioned Discipleship

Week 1

Stages of Discipleship! “Found, Follow, Fish!”

Week 2

Lifestyle of a Disciple: It’s Personal

Week 3

Lifestyle of a Disciple: Kingdom Focused!

Week 4

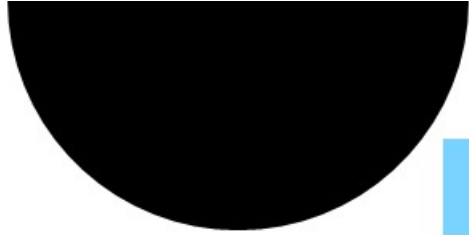
Motivated by Love!



Disciples

Choose what is better!

Luke 9:23-24
Luke 10:42



Today's Outline

What can we learn from Jesus' time with His disciples?

- paying close attention to Peter and Matthew

The Cost of Discipleship

- Have we counted the cost?

Choosing what is better

Sitting at His feet

FOLLOW

Matthew 4:18-22

4:19 “Follow Me, and I will make you... fishers of men.”

**Peter, Andrew, James, John
FISHERMEN –
He saw them.**

He does not only see us in our current state, but He sees us where He intends us to be in the Kingdom, using our gifts in the kingdom.

They already HAD THE GIFT in them, they just didn't know the extent of how God planned to use it! “from fishermen to fishers OF MEN!”

**They immediately left
their nets & followed Him**

Immediate surrender

They left something valuable behind (cost)

Discipleship COSTS you something

At a minimum, you are exchanging your will for His

He said to them

“**FOLLOW ME**” – 1st thing you are called to do, most important,

“**And I WILL MAKE YOU**” – following Him, changes us into who He is making us into

FOLLOW

Matthew 9:9

**...and He said to him, “Follow Me.”
So he arose & followed Him.**

Matthew – A tax collector “He saw him” at the tax office

- Were hated & criticized by the Jewish society of that time
- They were dishonest and skimmed off the top, charged more than the tax amount and pocketed the extra for themselves

Tax Collectors

- They're also known to be great record keepers
(the gift was already in him)
- He was then able to use that same SKILL/GIFT to pen the Book of Matthew

He said to Matthew

“FOLLOW ME” – 1st thing you are called to do & most important!

How did Matthew respond?

And He arose and followed him.

MERCY

Matthew 9:10-13

“¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

His Purpose

Jeremiah 1:5

Psalms 139: 13-18

Romans 8:28

Jer 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.

Psalms 139:13 For you created me in my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**Psalms 139:17 ...How precious are your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!**

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Disciples

**When we PICK UP OUR CROSS
& follow Jesus!!!**

Peter – preached the 1st Sermon in the book of ACTS!!! And over 2,000 were saved THAT DAY!!

Acts 21:41-47

12 Disciples:

- Were the foundation of the church
- Were vital in spreading the gospel of Jesus during His earthly ministry and after His ascension

Matthew wrote the 1st gospel in the new testament, Book of Matthew, the most read gospel, in the most read document in the world, the Bible!!!

“ The Cost

Luke 14:27-33

And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate (count) the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?



Heart

DISCIPLESHIP

Matters of the Heart

LOVE (God)

- **Mary** (Luke 10:39)

Sat at the Lord's feet,
listening to what He said

(Luke 10:42) "Mary has
chosen what is better, and it
will not be taken away from
her."

HATE (sin)

- **Joseph** (Gen 39:12)

And fled & ran outside

SERVE (others)

- **Paul** (1 Cor 9:19-23)

:19 I have made myself a slave to
everyone, to win as many as possible.
:23 I do all this for the sake of the
gospel, that I may share in its
blessings.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether
in word or deed, do it all in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the
Father through Him.

Yes, Lord!

Here I am Lord, Use me.
Isaiah 6:8

OR

I will follow you Lord, but first let me...

Luke 9:57-62 AND Matthew 8:21-23

Jesus

**Picking up our cross, Carrying our cross,
and Sitting at His Feet**

Sitting at His feet is what gives you what you need,
to pick up and carry your cross!

Matthew 6:33

**But seek ye first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these
things will be added unto you.**



Satan doesn't want you to pick up your cross and follow Jesus so he'll try to distract you, keep you busy, keep you doubting yourself, keep you in a prison of shame and guilt, try to get you to prioritize anything and everything above Jesus. He wants to steal, kill, and destroy... **But Jesus came that you would have LIFE and that more abundantly.** That you would have peace and joy. That you would have eternal life with Him. Yes it will cost you something, but oh the heavenly rewards. Will you follow Him today? From this day forward, will you pick up your cross? Will you carry it? **Will you**

be like Mary and...

**Choose what is better –
sitting at His feet.**