

The **Relationship** journey has established a key foundation for understanding HOW He sees us, what matters MOST to Him and what He would pay for its restoration, and how HE views our daily walk with Him now, with all its glory of both victories and failures.

Discipleship, by definition, is that process of becoming a disciple and helping make other disciples. In lay terms though, it is much easier understood by asking ourselves these questions: What do we REALLY believe? And How much do we believe? (How convinced are we?)

On the horizon, as we move into our **Headship** portion of study(our God given role in our sphere of influence) it will be important to be able to confront and answer these questions as we will be wearing the role of Disciple and Disciple-maker. All of our interactions with our family/sphere present us with an opportunity of modeling discipleship, and by seizing those opportunities, we are sowing seeds for making disciples for Christ.

DISCIPLESHIP Luke 9:1-27(v23)

Luke 9 is truly a defining chapter in the Word; and (V-23) is particularly enlightening, underscoring what it takes to follow Jesus and how He views the journey each of us are on right now. Much of the chapter, but especially V23, shapes the lens through which the answers come for these ever-important questions:

- **What would Jesus do?**
- **What DID Jesus do?**
- **How would He want me to react to this situation, view my circumstances, live “like Him?”, etc?**

Background/Summary:

- V1-9 Jesus sends out the disciples and empowers them to heal the sick, drive out demons and proclaim the Gospel, and instructed them their daily needs would be taken care of within their ministry work. The miracles were so newsworthy that King Herod heard and sought to determine whether or not (beheaded) John the Baptist had come back to life.
- V10-17 Jesus feeds 5K men (besides women and children, so 30-40K total?) from 5 bread loaves and 2 small fish, with a dozen baskets of leftovers.
- V18-20 Peter declares that Jesus is THE Christ, God’s promised Messiah
- V21-22 Jesus strictly warns them not to disclose His identity to anyone; He explains how every figure they held in authority (elders, chief priests, and teachers of law) would reject Him; prophesizes His death and resurrection.
- **V23-26** Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Being His Disciple:

Generally, Disciple defined as Follower or Student of a Teacher, Leader, or Philosopher
Our context, a Follower, Believer, Student of Jesus Christ.

Real Life Today – To Believe (“To accept something as True”)

Belief is a broadly interpreted term, sometimes mistaken for a more benign tone; like a care-free acceptance that something could be true. But more than “supposing something could be true” is the real life definition of believe: to accept something IS True.

Herein lies the key to what we believe: It is important to know what we believe and to believe it (know it) enough!

What we Believe:

- We had a debt we could not pay;
- In His **mercy** (*withholding punishment that is due*) He chose to be the very sacrifice it required to pay our debt;
- His purpose in paying this price was to restore His designed relationship with us;
- the price of His life shows us the value He places on a daily walking & talking relationship with us;
- we acknowledge that we are not entitled entry into His kingdom but are given access because of His **grace** (*blessings that are undeserved*) as we are here because of His gifts of love, His purposes, His sponsorship;
- as there are no turf wars in His Kingdom, we are strictly here as His servant, serving where HE elects – it is purely in His authority and scope to call us His children.

We Believe it Enough: Traction to Action

- In the context of pure Christianity, to believe something means to accept it as true, with all the consequences and benefits that come with its reality.
- **Belief brings change**; a newly discovered belief, or truth, cannot leave us unchanged.
- As we move deeper into the Word and deeper into the Spirit of God, His truths force us to confront ourselves and examine how He sees us in light of this truth.
- As we pray for Him to guide us, we will recognize the prompting behind those moments where He wants us to move forward with Him and we will also experience the distinct peace that comes with our obedience to His prompting.

What is belief if nothing changes? How high are the stakes?

House Fire: How do we respond if, through our closed bedroom door, we hear our roommate yell “the house is on fire!”

- Do we respond with:
- ◇ Stay put and simply reply “Well, that’s your opinion.”
 - ◇ Check for ourselves, and then race out if necessary
 - ◇ Immediately bolt out, and then look back to see for ourselves

We might be alarmed with how many people actually respond in the first option, when it comes to their spiritual walk.

When the stakes are eternal, can we really be too cautious? Care too much? Take it too serious? Do we believe?

To be a disciple of Christ, it becomes our constant and central desire, motive, and effort to confront and evaluate ourselves and our choices and responses in the light of Jesus Himself, and prompted by His leading. Really, what would Jesus do? And sometimes, the better question is - what DID Jesus do?

Eye on the Ball

Keeping our eyes on His example is our foundation for how to be a disciple of Him. Just like the disciples who walked with Him, it will be a process of years in the making as He works with us in His way in His time, slowly but surely and profoundly changing how we see the world and “reinventing” the toolbox we all dip into as we respond to challenges and situations.

Let’s revisit the day of His Crucifixion, and explore how much suffering did He endure, just to get to His cross?

Blindfolded / Spit on / Struck / Crowned with Thorns / Mocked & Jeered / Lied about / Scourged / Carried His Cross Nailed to the Cross all BEFORE arriving at His Cross of Sacrifice, Raised High as a Crucified Criminal.

Disciples: How much suffering are we really willing to endure to pick up and carry the cross He is calling us to carry?

WHERE WE ARE HEADED:

Disciples

- 1) Believe enough to act and duplicate His efforts, His purpose and ministry.
- 2) Deny Ourselves
- 3) Take Up Our Cross (despite whatever suffering stands between us and our cross)
- 4) Daily (intentional, decisive purpose)
- 5) Follow Him.