

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher” (Luke 6:40). You have been “perfectly trained” by the exact commands that Jesus gave His disciples, making you “like” Christ. The rhetoric from this Scripture triggers an appropriate response to respectfully discern the relationship between disciple and his Teacher. Rob Bell accurately accents such a relationship with incredible detail:

Jesus is a Jewish Rabbi with Jewish disciples living in a first century Jewish world. Now Jesus grew up in a region called the Galilee. And the Jewish people in the Galilee believed that God had spoken to Moses, one of the great historical leaders, and had given him the first five books of the Bible. They called these first five books the Torah...Most Jewish boys or girls around the age of six would go to school for the first time to learn the Torah...This first level of education was called Bet’s Affair and lasted until the kid was around ten years old...But the best of the best would keep going, they would continue their education into the next level which was called Bet Talmud...The best of the best of the best would continue on to the next level of education, which was called Bet Midrash. They would go to a Rabbi and they’d apply to that Rabbi to become one of that Rabbi’s disciples...A Rabbi’s set of interpretations was called that Rabbi’s *yoke*. So when you went and applied to a Rabbi to become one of that Rabbi’s disciples, what you wanted to do is you wanted to take that Rabbi’s yoke upon you, so that you could learn to know what the Rabbi knows, in order to do what the Rabbi does, in order to be like the Rabbi...You would leave your family, your friends, your synagogue, your village, and you would devote your entire life to being like your Rabbi, learning to do what your Rabbi does. This is what it means to be a disciple...If you’re a disciple, by the end of the day, with your Rabbi traveling on these hot, dusty, dirty roads, you’ve got whatever your Rabbi stepped in just caked all over the front of you. So this saying developed among the wise men and the sages, you would say to a disciple, “*May you be covered in the dust of your Rabbi.*”¹

By the grace of God, you, too, have officially been discipled. You have been the student. Christ has been the Teacher. You have learned and grasped truths that do more than inform. They transform, inspiring your passion while chiseling away the rough edges of your old life. Through the Scriptures, you have renewed your mind! You have established a godly environment within your heart for Christ to inhabit and reign as your Lord and Master. What you have been given from Christ in the form of His commands is the greatest treasure you will ever possess in your life. You are His disciple. You are His body. You are His ambassador. You are equipped with His every command. So, it’s your turn. Go make more disciples. And as you do, may you also be covered in the dust of your Rabbi, Jesus Christ.

¹ Rob Bell, “Dust”, DVD, director unknown (2005; Grand Rapids, MI: Nooma, 2004).