

DISCIPLESHIP

This lesson is designed to impact us as to the extremely high demands of being a disciple of Jesus. We are to see the level of commitment that we should have made as a part of our conversion experience. Did you commit to the high demands of true discipleship?

I. THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

- A. Mat. 28:18-20 "Go & make disciples..." (Baptize them – disciples)
1. "Teach them to observe everything..." (Chain reaction!)
 2. Is this God's way to save people? (What will those taught be doing?)
 3. How are people used in God's plan to save people?
 4. If the early disciples didn't obey this command what would have happened?
 5. Who does this scripture apply to today? *Who has this responsibility today?*
- B. Acts 11:26 The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. (After 10 years – 1000's only called disciples)
1. Word for disciple (Greek: mathetes) is used 252 times in the N.T. (Christians 3 times)
 2. DISCIPLE = CHRISTIAN = SAVED
 3. If we use the predominate term for God's saved people would we use the word Christian?
 4. What term would we use?

II. JESUS IS "THE WAY" (Path or road) John 14:6 *Is He a way or THE WAY?*

- A. Disciple is the Greek word *μάθητρον* (mathetes - pronounced: *math-ay-tes*)
1. What does this word mean? Is it limited to a follower or student or a more significant meaning?
 2. What is an apprentice? What would you be training to be as an apprentice of Jesus?
 3. How do you learn best - by someone describing to you or by example?
 4. Can you think of trades, occupations or professions where people are trained this way? *Tailors, Carpenters, Electricians, Physicians are all trained to do their work this way.*
 5. What have you learned by being taught this way?
- B. If we are disciples then the meaning of this word demands that we be training to do the work of Christ.
1. John 14:12 ... *anyone who has faith in me...* Will do what? (Is this how you exhibit faith in Him?)
 2. Luke 19:10 ... *came to seek and save ...* Whom? (What are you doing to seek & save the lost?)
 3. Mat. 20:28 ... *came to serve and give his life...* (How have you been giving your life in Christ's service?)
 4. 1 Pet. 2:21 ... *that you should follow in his steps...* (Have you been following like this?)
 5. 1 John 2:6 ... *Whoever claims...must...* Do what? Do you have life? (Are you walking as Jesus did?)
- C. Mark 1:16-20
1. "Follow me" – The heart of a disciple. Are you willing to follow the Lord like this?
 2. Jesus expects obedience. Are you attempting to follow the Lord in complete obedience?
 3. "Immediately" – indicates what? Are there things which keep Jesus from being #1 in your life?
 4. "They left their nets" – indicates what? Is there anything you know that you must leave behind in order to make Jesus your priority? What are some of the things you must be willing to give up?

III. SUBMISSION Luke 5:1-11

- A. V.5 "Because YOU say so, I will"- Does the Lord know what's best for you? Are you saying this to Jesus?
- B. If it doesn't make any sense to you, to your pride, etc., will trust Jesus enough to obey him anyway?
- C. Will Jesus be pleased with a "conditional" faith? *Can you choose when and if you will obey the Lord? (Answer: Yes) But will Jesus save you if you don't allow Him to be your Lord/master/ruler?*

IV. THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

1. **HOLD TO JESUS' TEACHING - John 8:31-32**
- A. What does hold to Jesus' teaching mean? Will you "stick with & live out" the teaching of Jesus?
- B. Mat. 7:21-23 "Only he who does the will" - What does this mean to you? Is this a salvation issue?
2. **LOVE LIKE JESUS LOVED – John 13:34-35**
- A. How much did Jesus love? Is this a suggestion or a command? Is it optional? (*See also: 1 John 3:16*)
- B. Are you loving like Jesus loved? How should people see that you are his disciple by this verse?
3. **BEAR MUCH FRUIT – John 15:4-8**
1. John 15:4 Is it possible to bear fruit without remaining closely united to Christ?
 2. John 15:5 What does God promise you if you maintain an intimate relationship with Christ?
 3. John 15:6 What will happen to the person who doesn't maintain this close relationship?
 4. According to 15:8 What shows or proves that you are really his disciple?
 5. How's your fruit? What efforts have you made *or are you making* to reach the lost for Christ?
 6. John 15:4-8 Does this describe your life? Is your life proving that you truly are a disciple of Christ?

V. JESUS' DEFINITION OF A DISCIPLE – Luke 9:23-27

- A. Deny myself...(What are you doing each day that proves you are denying yourself?)
- B. Take up my cross... What is the cross? *What does it mean for you to take up His cross?*
- C. Follow Jesus...*Describe what you are doing to follow Jesus.*
- D. Lose my life...*Are you losing or giving up your life for Christ's sake? – In what ways?*
- E. Not be ashamed of Him. How can we deny Jesus? *Do you talk to others about Jesus?*

QUESTIONS: Does this describe your life now? Since this is God's description of a disciple, are you a disciple of Jesus now? Will you commit to being a true disciple of Jesus Christ? Mat 28:20 shows that God wants us to make disciples His way. Will you commit to being and making disciples God's way? See also: Luke 14:25 In 12:24

CONCLUSION - A TRUE DISCIPLE:

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| A. Follows Christ's example. | E. Holds to Jesus' teachings. |
| B. Walks as Jesus did. | F. Loves like Jesus loved. |
| C. Obeys Jesus immediately. | G. Bears much fruit. |