

The Heart of Discipleship



Phase 1: Call to Conversion

- John 1:43 – “Follow Me.”
- Imperative command – immediate reversal of direction
- Jesus finds and calls Philip directly
- Diverse ways people come to Christ
- Radical change – new direction for life

Phase 2: Call to Ministry

- Matthew 4:19 – “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- Plan: Disciples making disciples
- John 15:16 – Appointed to bear fruit
- Great Commission: Make disciples of all nations

Responses to the Call

- Matthew: Immediate obedience – left everything
- Another disciple: Delayed by family/inheritance
- Jesus: “Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead.”
- Don’t be distracted – full devotion required

Phase 3 & 4: Apostleship & Martyrdom

- Luke 6:13 – Chosen as apostles (“sent ones”)
- Internship ~18 months
- John 21:19 – “Follow Me” to Peter, signifying death
- Devotion that glorifies God – ultimate sacrifice

The Heart of Discipleship

- “Follow Me” – loving obedience, direction of life
- Imitating Christ – becoming more like Him
- Sanctification: Growing in godliness
- “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ” – Paul
- Iron sharpens iron

By Instruction

- Teach the Word of God – Psalm 25:4-5
- God's Word equips for life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3)
- Be diligent – accurately handle truth (2 Tim 2:15)
- Milk to solid food – confront immaturity
- Colossians 1:9-10 – filled with knowledge to walk worthy

By Example

- Proverbs 23 – Give your heart... delight in my ways
- Fathers/disciplers model the path
- Exemplify love for the Church (Matt 16:18)
- Exemplify love for family (Eph 5:25)
- Living testimony to the world

Conclusion

- Instruction + Example = Effective Discipleship
- Reproduce yourself – pass the baton
- Equip the saints (Eph 4:12-13)
- By God's Spirit – not by might
- May we sharpen one another to follow Christ!