

## *Discipleship (short series)*

### **I. What is a disciple?**

Acts 11:26

And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

A. *Not to be confused with “apostle”*

Luke 6:13

And when it was day, He called His disciples to *Himself*; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles

Luke 19:37

Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God

John 6:66

From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

B. *Disciples defined/described*

John 8:31

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore<sup>[a]</sup> and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

### **II. What does being a disciple involve?**

Luke 9:23

Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

A. *What does it mean to “deny yourself”?*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price...

Romans 14:7-8

For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 15:1-3

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself

*B. What does it mean to "take up your cross"?*

Hebrews 13:12-13

Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

Galatians 1:10

or do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

*C. What does it mean to "follow" Jesus today?*

1. To go where He has gone

Hebrews 6:19-20

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus

Luke 6:40

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2. Follow His teachings and commands (obedience) —

John 9:28

Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples.

Luke 6:46

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

3. Follow His example (imitation) —

1 Peter 2:21

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps

John 13:15

For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

1 Cor.11:1

Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

2 Thess.3:7-9

For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

4. Follow His direction through His Spirit —

Rom.8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

John 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Rev.14:4

These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

*B. Counting the cost*

Luke 14:25-33

Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, **26** “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. **27** And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— **29** lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, **30** saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? **31** Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. **33** So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Luke 9:57-62

Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.”

**59** Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

**61** And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

### **III. What are the reasons for being a disciple?**

#### *A. To be with Jesus*

##### Mark 3:7

But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea

##### John 12:26

If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there **My servant will be** also.

#### *B. To be taught by Him*

##### Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

##### Mark 4:34

But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.

##### Matthew 23:8

"But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren.

##### 1 John 2:27

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

#### *C. To be set free*

##### John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

#### *D. The blessings of the beatitudes*

##### Luke 6:20-23

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said:  
“Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.  
Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.  
Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake.  
Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

Luke 10:23-24

Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it."

*E. Ministry to the multitudes*

Mark 8:1-2, 6

In those days, the multitude being very great and having nothing to eat, Jesus called His disciples *to Him* and said to them, **2** "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat... So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and gave thanks, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude.

*F. To glorify God*

John 15:8

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Ephesians 1:11-14

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, **12** that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. <sup>[L]</sup>**13** In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Peter 2:12

having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Romans 15:8-9

Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, **9** and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy

John 21:19

This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."