

2. DISCIPLESHIP

Purpose

Establish the standard of following Jesus

Introduction

- Q: How many times do you think the word *Christian* is used in the Bible? 3 times
Q: How many times is the word *disciple* used in the Bible? Nearly 300 times

Acts 11:25-26

- » **The disciples were called Christians** - The people of Antioch identified the disciples of Jesus with a new term, "Christian" or Christ's disciples.

In the Bible, being a Christian and being a disciple are the same thing. Jesus never used the word "Christian."

Mark 1:16-18 | CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS

- » **Come follow me** - Jesus called them to be his disciples. In the ancient world, being someone's disciple was an intimate relationship, not just learning facts but imitating conduct and character.

definition of disciple = pupil or learner, apprentice

- » **I will send you out to fish** - Jesus gave purpose to these men as he called them. His disciples were to have the same purpose that he had.

Q: How would you describe their response?

Q: Is this the purpose of your life?

Matthew 22:35-38 | CALLED TO LOVE GOD

- » **Which is the greatest commandment** - If we get this right, everything will follow.
- » **Love the Lord your God...with all of your being** - As disciples of Jesus, our life's priority is loving God emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually.

Luke 9:23-26 | CALLED TO CARRY A CROSS

- » **If anyone** - The call of discipleship is the same for all of us.
- » **Deny themselves** - Disciples live a life of absolute self-denial.
- » **Take up their cross** - Being a disciple is incredibly challenging but worth it!
- » **Follow me** - We learn how to live by imitation of Jesus.
- » **Whoever loses their life for me will save it** - The only way to gain salvation is to give up our lives to God while we are on earth. This is the great paradox!

Q: What will you need to deny to become a disciple of Jesus?

Luke 14:25-27 | CALLED TO PUT JESUS FIRST

- » **If anyone comes to me and does not hate** - Jesus comes before everything; our family, friends, careers, and personal ambitions. In order to be his disciple, Jesus must be first.

Luke 14:28-30 | CALLED TO COUNT THE COSTS

- » **Won't you first sit down and estimate** - Soberly consider the costs of following Jesus.
- » Being a disciple is difficult and life-long (a marathon, not a sprint).

Luke 14:31-33 | CALLED TO SURRENDER

- » **Suppose a king is about to go to war** - We are not in a position to bargain with God. He created us. We cannot get to heaven without his intercession.
- » **Ask for terms of peace** - God sets the terms of peace. We surrender to his will.

Q: What would you need to give up to be a disciple of Jesus?

John 13:34-35 | CALLED TO LOVE AS JESUS LOVED

- » **A new command I give you** - This is the night before Jesus died...he had spent about three years with his disciples already.
- » **As I have loved you, you must love one another** - Jesus calls his disciples to model their relationships after how he loved them.

Q: How did Jesus love these men over those three years?

By this all men will know that you are my disciples - the defining characteristic of Jesus' followers would be this type of relationship with each other.

- Genuine, involved, and self-sacrificing love is a distinguishing trait of a true follower of Jesus!

Matthew 28:18-20 | CALLED TO MAKE OTHER DISCIPLES

- » **Go and make disciples** - After we become disciples of Jesus, we make others.
- » **Baptise them** - Disciples of Jesus are candidates for baptism.
- » **Teach them to obey everything** - We need to continue to be trained.

QUESTIONS

Q: Are you a true disciple of Jesus?

Q: Would you like to become one? God is calling you!

Q: Would you be willing to come to a church that believes in making disciples?

FURTHER STUDY (CAN BE GIVEN AS HOMEWORK)

Matthew 7:21-23 We must do the will of God to go to heaven.

Luke 5:1-11 Simon Peter being called to be a disciple.

Luke 11:1-4 We learn how to live our spiritual life from imitating Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:1 We imitate Christ-like characteristics in other disciples around us.

1 John 2:3-6 We must walk as Jesus did.