

Discipleship and Lordship

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ().

Introduction

- Review how after we hear and believe, our obedience completes true, saving faith
 - Next, the question to ask is: "How does Jesus want us to follow him?"

The Call to Discipleship Matthew 28:18-20

- What does Jesus want everyone to become? Disciples
- Which is the more popular term: disciple or Christian? Christian
- What do you think is the difference between a disciple and a Christian?
 - Many perceive that disciples are "super" Christians
 - The word "disciple" occurs over 270 times in the New Testament. The word "Christian" only appears three times
- Seven years after the church began: Acts 11:19-26
 - The term, "Christian", is used for the first time as a derogatory, secondary name given by those in the world
 - Before they were called Christians, what were they called? Disciples
 - They were disciples first, before they were known as Christians
- Christian and disciple are supposed to mean the same thing
- We must be **disciples** in order to be true Christians and to be **truly saved**
- Jesus wanted everyone to be disciples, because he wanted everyone to be saved
- We will examine how Jesus called people to discipleship

- Jesus defined the meaning of "disciple" throughout his ministry
- Disciples are defined by **love**: for God and other people.....Mark 12:30-31
 - When loving others, Jesus focused on both (1) loving other disciples and (2) loving those who are not yet disciples, those who are lost
 - In summary, disciples of Christ
 - Love God • Love Other Disciples • Love the Lost
- Jesus called the first disciples: "Come, **follow** me..." Mark 1:14-20
 - Disciples follow Jesus. Disciples are under the Lordship of Christ

Loving the Lost: The Mission of a Disciple

- What was their mission before Jesus called them? Fishing
 - Their mission determined how they lived their lives: where they would live, when they would wake up, how they would spend their time
- What did Jesus call them to become? "... make you fishers of men"
 - Jesus gave the disciples a new **mission for their lives**
- What has been your mission in life? Are you willing to be a fisher of men?
- How quickly, did they respond? "At once...": Living Jesus' mission is amazing!
 - They left everything. They trusted Jesus completely. Why?
- They also saw Jesus' mission was to help those in need physically ... Mark 1:32-34
- His heart for the poor and needy attracted many and validated his message
- A disciple's great and fulfilling mission is to love those in spiritual and physical need
- Jesus' mission drew him close to God and kept him focused..... Mark 1:35-39

Loving God: The Marriage Transformation

True love for God changes our lives in a manner similar to getting married. Whatever our spiritual background, God has been trying to win us over so that we would choose to be fully devoted to Him

Unrivaled Love: "If anyone", this applies to all people Luke 14:25-26

- "Hate": We can have only one Lord, Jesus. No competition..... Luke 16:13
In marriage, how do people feel about whatever competes for their spouses' affection? Hate. We must be devoted completely to Jesus
- **Disciples love Jesus more than anybody or anything**
- Opposition, persecution and distraction can come from our closest relationships
 - Are you devoted to loving Jesus more than anybody or anything?
 - Parents, siblings, family: What relationships could compete?
 - Self: How could self get in the way?
 - How could devotion to money get in the way?

Sacrificial Love: "...carry his cross" means we must sacrifice Luke 14:27

- **On a daily basis**, we are called to sacrifice and **deny ourselves**..... Luke 9:23-26
In marriage, there is a big life change from being single to married. One difference is daily sacrifice. Married people are not free to come and go as they please
Married people share everything and make decisions together
 - **Disciples make a big life change of daily sacrifice and self-denial**
 - How will your daily life change as a disciple of Christ?
 - Start with your daily personal time with God (v. 3) (Luke 11:1-4)
- Count the Cost Luke 14:28-30

- Were you taught to count the cost before you called yourself a Christian?
- Jesus was clear and upfront at the beginning, even when addressing a large crowd
In marriage, a person thinks carefully before picking a spouse. Marriages can be annulled, if based on fraud or a misunderstanding. Marriage must come with a solid understanding and agreement that significant life changes are required
- Many make decisions about God based on a religious leader's opinion, rather than what the Bible actually says. They do not understand the obedience God expects
- True discipleship requires hearing the message and watching your doctrine closely
- What costs do you need to count before devoting yourself to Christ?
- Consider the alternatives when counting the costs..... Luke 14:31-32
 - Since God has way more in his army than we do, surrendering to the Lordship of Christ is wise

Give Up Everything Luke 14:33

- Jesus taught with integrity. When he called people to follow him, he was clear about what he expected: **Everything**
In marriage, people expect complete devotion. 99% faithful is not acceptable
In marriage, a couple shares everything. Everything is given to the relationship
- As a disciple, we must give everything to Christ. What will you have to give up?

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- How willing are you to give your time, energy, heart, resources and finances over to God?

Loving One Another: The Mark of a True Disciple

- Love for one another is a defining characteristic of a disciple John 13:34-35
- ◊ Disciples have a sacrificial love fore one another John 15:12-14
- ◊ Disciples have a deep love for one another 1 Peter 4:8
 - Loving each other covers over sin and connects to our salvation
- ◊ We cannot love God unless we love the disciples we see near us.... 1John 4:19-20
- ◊ Love is expressed through action and truth 1 John 3:18
- ◊ We live by the truth by being open with each other John 1:5-10
 - A lifestyle involving confession builds fellowship and cleanses us from sin
- Does your love for other disciples show yourself as a true, disciple of Christ?

Conclusion Matthew 28:19

- Who is a candidate for baptism? Those who have been discipled to Christ
 - Jesus directs us to go disciple or teach people before they are baptized
 - People must be accurately taught what it means to be a disciple before they are baptized
- Have I been correctly discipled? Am I a disciple? Am I a Christian? Am I saved?
- "Teach them to obey everything..."
 - After baptism, people are important in teaching us to be mature in Christ
 - Jesus' command to make disciples was given to be passed down to all

Year	Preacher	Discipler
1	365	2
2	730	4
3	1095	8
13	4,745	8,192
32	11,680	The world: billions

- This was Jesus' primary plan to save the world
- *Are you willing to devote yourself to the Lordship of Christ by living so that your faith expresses itself through love?..... Galatians 5:6*