

What It Means To Be A Disciple?

Scripture: John 1:35-51

INTRODUCTION

A. The term *discipleship* is tossed around frequently these days, so we ought to know what it means and what it involves.

Our interest rests on a foundational point.

We must see what is meant by *being a disciple* before we consider what is involved in *making disciples*.

B. Matthew 28:19-20 contains our marching orders.

1. How can we “make disciples” if we do not know what one is or what one does?
2. **This is one of the first lessons we must learn if we would become effective workers for Jesus.**

C. Communism is a mighty force in our day with one-third of the world’s population and one-fourth of the world’s land under its control.

1. The founder: was Karl Marx in the eighteenth century.
2. The goal: of Communism is to change the world.
3. The method: is revolution.
4. The means: is that of finding and making disciples who will devote their lives to revolution.

D. The purpose in this series is to cause us Christians to become disciples, to become committed to Christ.

I. FIRST, LET US NOTICE **THE ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIANITY.**

- A. The founder: is Jesus Christ.
- B. The goal: is regeneration and transformation.
- C. The means: is the blood of Jesus.
- D. The method: is disciples making disciples.

II. WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIALS OF DISCIPLESHIP?

A. Luke 9:23 says, *“And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”*

B. Here are some general observations based on this passage.

1. Jesus was speaking.
2. It was spoken to all who were following.
3. No one was excluded.
4. He was not giving a call to salvation.
5. He was calling for a decision.
6. He asked them to come after Him.

C. Now notice the specific ingredients of discipleship.

1. One must deny himself.
 - a. Peter denied the Lord.
 - b. Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.
 - c. The word means to lose sight of self, say no to self, refuse self.
2. One is to take up his cross, *daily*.
 - a. The cross meant death.
 - b. We must die daily.
 - c. Galatians 2:20 says, *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me: and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.”*
 - d. Baptism is the burial of a dead man.
3. One is to follow Jesus.
 - a. Where? Everywhere!
 - b. When? All the time!
 - c. Why? We cannot be His disciples otherwise!
 - d. How? We are to cleave steadfastly to Him!
4. What are the blessings of a disciple?
 - a. They are justified by faith (Romans 5:1).
 - b. They are delivered from darkness (Colossians 1:13).
 - c. They are protected by God’s power (1 Peter 1:5).
 - d. They are sealed in Him (Ephesians 1:13).
 - e. They are children of God (John 1:12).
 - f. They are born of the water and the Spirit (John 3:5-6).

III. LOOK AT **AN ILLUSTRATION OF DISCIPLESHIP.**

A. **Disciples were chosen.**

1. Read John 1:35–51.

2. Luke 5:27–29 says, “*And after these things he went forth, and beheld a publican, named Levi, sitting at the place of toll, and said unto him, Follow me. And he forsook all, and rose up and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his house: and there was a great multitude of publicans and of others that were sitting at meat with them.*”

B. **Disciples were cultivated.**

1. Jesus concentrated on a few.

2. He never got in a hurry.

3. There was no motivational gimmick. Jesus was real and genuine.

4. He had to overlook some.

a. “*And he goeth up into the mountain, and calleth unto him whom he himself would; and they went unto him*” (Mark 3:13).

b. He called the twelve to be with Him and to go forth to preach.

IV. NOW, LET US **APPLY DISCIPLESHIP.**

A. Many of the great men of bygone years were taught by others.

1. Martin Luther, the great Reformer, was discipled by Phillip Melancthon.

2. Thomas Campbell taught his son, Alexander.

B. Have you ever taught someone?

CONCLUSION

A. Are you a disciple?

B. Are you teaching someone else?