

# Are You a Disciple?

## Scripture:

Matthew 28:18-19 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>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.” Amen.”

## Introduction:

The followers of Jesus Christ were known as His disciples. When you find reference to the disciples in the Bible, sometimes it is a reference to those who responded to His message, while at other times it is referring to those who were with Him all the time. The twelve Apostles were in a unique discipleship relationship with Christ.

The word “disciple” is used 240 times in the gospels and 30 times in the Book of Acts.

With this emphasis upon the position of discipleship, we must see that it has high priority in the Kingdom of God. Jesus Called disciples, taught disciples, shared his life with disciples and sent out his disciples. As Christians, we must begin to see ourselves as His disciples.

## I. Disciples have a close relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mark 3:13-15 “And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. <sup>14</sup>Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, <sup>15</sup>and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:”

A. Who does Jesus want?

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Revelation 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

B. The twelve were so close that they were invited into a special communion meeting with Christ.

Matthew 26:26-28 “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” <sup>27</sup>Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup>For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

C. They were so close to Christ that He washed their feet.

John 13:2-5 “And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. <sup>5</sup>After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”

## II. Disciples are taught the mysteries of the Kingdom.

Matthew 13:10 “And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” <sup>11</sup>He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”

A. This statement immediately follows the parable of the four types of ground.

B. Although God is willing to have the seed of the Kingdom of God distributed everywhere and to everyone, He knows where the good ground is and who will work to improve their ground.

C. Mysteries are reserved for those who will spend time with Jesus.

Mark 4:33-34 “And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup>But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.”

- D. Disciples have the mysteries taught to them because they have responsibilities that will draw upon their understanding of those mysteries.

### III. Disciples have a responsibility to the harvest.

Matthew 9:35-38 “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. <sup>36</sup>But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then He said to His disciples, “*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.* <sup>38</sup>Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

- A. The multitudes are weary and scattered without someone to shepherd them.
- B. God is calling men and women into the harvest field, which is ready, to shepherd those heirs of salvation.
- C. We see here a great need for intercessors for the workers and for shepherds for the harvest.
- D. Because of the need in the harvest, there is first of all a need for equipping the workers.

### IV. Disciples strive for power in the spirit.

Matthew 10:1 “And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.”

- A. Once again we see that power in our lives is a result of being “with” the Lord, not just around where He is at.
- B. We cannot successfully reach those in the harvest if we have not been endued with power from God.

Acts 1:8 “*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*”

- 1. The reason for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to equip us for service.
- 2. It’s not a badge to indicate special privilege, but authority to tap the resources of the Holy Ghost.

### V. Disciples get involved in ministry.

Matthew 14:14-16 “And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.” <sup>16</sup>But Jesus said to them, “*They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.*”

- A. Notice Jesus said, “You give them something to eat.”
- B. They were able to feed the multitude with what was at hand.
- C. What is at hand will always be enough when we go at the command of Christ.
- D. Christ will always empower us for whatever responsibility He gives us.

Luke 9:1-6 “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. <sup>2</sup>He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup>And He said to them, “*Take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor money; and do not have two tunics apiece.* <sup>4</sup>“*Whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart.* <sup>5</sup>And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against

*them.”<sup>6</sup> So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”*

**VI. Disciples learn the value of the fellowship of believers.**

Matthew 12:46-50 *“While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.<sup>47</sup> Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”<sup>48</sup> But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”<sup>49</sup> And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!<sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”*

- A. This was not to disparage family but to point out the value of the family of God.
- B. God intended for there to be close working relationships in the family.
  - 1. Adam had a help-meet.
  - 2. Cain was supposed to be his brother’s keeper, but he denied his responsibility and killed him.
  - 3. Fathers are meant to train and help their children learn the skills of living.
  - 4. Mothers are meant to nurture and help their young to come to emotional maturity.
- C. We need to develop close relationships with one another in order to fulfill our calling and responsibilities in the Kingdom of God.

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.<sup>35</sup> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

**Conclusion:**

- A. It’s time for every disciple of Christ to draw near to the Lord and desire to know the mysteries of the Kingdom.
- B. We need to discover these mysteries because of our call to the harvest. We are challenged get involved in any activity that puts us in the harvest field.
- C. Set yourself aside to be endued with power from on high to be better equipped for the harvest field work.
- D. Find ways and means to develop the family of God and to be drawn close to brothers and sisters in Christ.