

ARE YOU A DISCIPLE?

Growing Disciples to Build the Kingdom

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 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.” Amen.

Quote: If you make disciples, you always get a church; but if you make a church, you rarely get disciples.

A disciple – a person who is following Christ, is being changed by Christ, and is committed to the mission of Christ.

Following Christ:

- **Matthew 4:18-20** – And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹Then He said to them, “**Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed Him. [**Follow** – literally, come, come thither!]
 - **Matthew 11:28-30** – **Come** to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹“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. ³⁰“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. [Same Greek word]
- **Matthew 8:19-22** – Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will **follow** You wherever You go.” ²⁰And 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.” ²¹Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ²²But Jesus said to him, “**Follow Me**, and let the dead bury their own dead.”
 - **The scribe** – used a different word meaning to follow one who precedes, join him as his attendant, accompany him; to join one as a disciple, become or be his disciple; side with his party.
 - **Believers Bible Commentary** – In His public ministry, He had no home of His own; however, there were homes where He was a welcome guest and He ordinarily had a place to sleep. The true force of His words seems to be spiritual: this world could not provide Him with true, lasting rest. He had a work to do and could not rest till it was accomplished. The same is true of His followers; this world is not their resting place—or at least, it shouldn’t be!
 - **Another disciple** – probably his father was alive, but old, and he wanted to wait till he died and make those arrangements.

Being changed by Christ:

- **Luke 6:40** – *A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.*
- **Ephesians 4:11, 12 [NLT]** – *He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ,*
 - **Perfectly trained & equipping** – to complete; to mend (what has been broken or rent), to adjust; ethically: to make one what he ought to be.
- **Ephesians 4:20-24 [NLT]** – *But that isn’t what you were taught when you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard all about him and have learned the truth that is in Jesus, ²² throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. ²³ Instead, there must be a spiritual renewal of your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God’s likeness—righteous, holy, and true.*

Committed to the mission of Christ:

- **Jesus words:** not to judge but to save; seek and save the lost; to bring abundant life.
- **Luke 4:17-19 [NLT]** – *When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. ¹⁷ The scroll containing the messages of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him, and he unrolled the scroll to the place where it says: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressors, ¹⁹ and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.” ²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. Everyone in the synagogue stared at him intently. ²¹ Then he said, “This Scripture has come true today before your very eyes!”*

Matthew 16:17, 18 – *Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

Matthew 16:22, 23 – *Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*

Matthew 16:24, 25 – *Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. [Note: invitation = access, vulnerability, authenticity, etc.]*