

FOLLOWING JESUS AS A DISCIPLE

Matt 4:18-20 John 21:19

Following involves deepening intimacy with Christ in a way that _____ us and results in a clear reflection of _____.

A **disciple** is someone who _____. The Greek word for "disciple" is a learner.

Follow = relational [Passionate Pursuit]

Disciple = instructional [Eager Learner]

1 Cor 11:1 "Follow me as I follow Christ"

1) What is a Disciple?

- Jesus' Call to Follow and Become Disciples
 - Luke 14:26: Supreme _____ for God
 - Luke 14:27: Willingness to _____
 - Luke 14:33: Renouncing All _____
 - John 8:31: The Word of God as _____
 - John 13:34-35: Love for Other _____
 - John 15:8: _____ Life
 - Matt 10:42 _____ Heart
 - Luke 6:40 _____ Spirit

2) What Are the Benefits of Following Jesus as a Disciple?

- New Excitement in Life (John 10:10)
- Satisfaction (John 7:37-38)
- Deep relationships (2 Cor 6:2)
- Purpose in Life (2 Cor 5:9)
- Joy of Being Used in Others' Lives (2 John 4)
- Awareness of the Living Christ (Rom 8:11)
- Eternal benefits (Mark 10:29-30)

3) What Is the Cost of Following Jesus as a Disciple?

- Outside of your own comfort and ability to control (Rom 14:7-8)
- Misunderstanding and Rejection (1 Peter 4:2-4)
- Loss of Immediate Pleasure (Heb 11:25-26)
- Suffering (Phil 1:29-30)
- Early Death (Phil 1:20)

4) What Is the Key Issue in Following Jesus as a Disciple?

- Key Issue = Authority and Humility (1 Peter 5:5-6)
- Must see Jesus and Spiritual leaders as Developing Us vs. Dominating (Heb 13:17)
- Mutual Respect (2 Cor 1:24)

- Trust (Matt 28:18-20)

"Discipleship means adherence to Christ...An abstract Christology, a doctrinal system, a general religious knowledge on the subject of grace or on forgiveness of sins, render discipleship superfluous...Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ." Dietrich Bonhoffer The Cost of Discipleship (pg 59)

GREAT FOLLOWERS

Resources:

Following Christ by Joseph Stowell; Zondervan 1996

"Great Followers" by John Ortberg; 1999 Leadership Summit (Willow Creek)

The Power of Followership by Robert Kelly; Doubleday 1992

Following is a foundational part of all of our lives.

- Everyone was _____.
- To become a _____ you must become a great follower.... Jesus
John 5:19,30
- Leading is a _____ following is a _____.

"A leader—a good effective leader—is, at the core, consumed with following" Joseph Stowell

1) Great Followers Are _____.

Exodus 32:1-2 _____ responsibility

Exodus 32:21-24 Evades _____

Question: Have you abdicated responsibility or evaded accountability?

2) Great Followers Seek to _____ vs. _____ About Them.

Ex 16:3 Num 11:4 Num 11:10

Culture of _____ or Culture of _____

Culture of _____ or Culture of _____

Culture of _____ or Culture of _____

Jethro Exodus 18

Question: Do you have the humility to accept a better idea?

3) Great Followers Are _____.

Proverbs 27:6

Joab 2 Samuel 11:6,14-18

Nathan 2 Samuel 12:7

They owe their leaders truth...with _____.

Question: Do you love enough to tell the truth?

4) Great Followers Have a Heart for _____.

Default mode is to be obsessed with _____.

Luke 9:46

Luke 22:24

John 21:20-22

Question: How do you work for others when you know they will get the recognition?

- 5) **Great Followers Have a** _____.
Peter: Not defensive, high marks in _____.
Question: Are you creating a culture of coachability or defensiveness?

LIFE IN COMMUNITY

- 1) **Jesus** _____ **spiritual community.**
Mark 3:14 Luke 6:12
Matt 26:36-45
One on One in the context of a small group
- 2) **Jesus placed his** _____ **on His spiritual community.**
John 17:4-6
- 3) **Spiritual community was** _____ **in New Testament church life.**
Acts 2:42 Acts 13:1 Acts 20:4
- 4) **Koinonia (fellowship) is** _____ **in a small spiritual community.**
Heb 3:13 Heb 10:24-25
"One Another's"
- 5) **Spiritual community counters the** _____.
Matt 5:14-16
Mobility + Urbanization + Privatization + Competition = ISOLATION

BARRIERS TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

- 1) _____.
My faith and life are personal and private – not to be shared.
I am doing OK without it.
People don't need community they just need the Word.
We don't need the Word we just need to share with each other.
- 2) _____.
I am too busy.
It takes too much time. We need to get on with the important things.
- 3) _____.
I will just get disappointed.
No one will care to really know about my life, dreams, struggles, deepest stories.
Someone can "fix" me.
I can "fix" other people.
- 4) _____.

Honestly facing my life and others' is terrifying and too painful.
I would be found out for who I am and then rejected.
I would love to give to others but I could not receive.
We would get sidetracked from fulfilling the Great Commission.

What would it be like in your life if you were in a circle of believers who consistently poured out the life of God in their hearts into one another? What is keeping that from happening?

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PASSION FOR GOD

1) Listening to the Word of God (Luke 5:1-3)

- A. The Word of God is _____ to all desire and passion for God.
- B. Knowledge of God is _____. So is a desire and passion for God.

Have you been listening to and taking in God's Word regularly?

2) Experiencing the Power of God (Luke 5:4-7)

- A. Recognizing Jesus as your _____.
- B. Doing something just " _____ " by faith.
They could have said: we know fishing, You know carpentry. We fish, You build. Instead, they DID what He said though it made no sense to them.
- C. _____ is the bedrock of experiencing God and His power.

Are you experiencing the power of God in your life through prayer?

3) Submitting to the Holiness of God (Luke 5:8-10)

- A. God calls people to _____, God is not here just to make our lives better.
- B. When I see God for who He is, I will _____ to Him.

This year Have you had experiences where you know God better or can see Him more clearly?

4) Results: Knowing and Doing the Will of God (Luke 5:10-11)

- A. A huge _____ was in their heart.
- B. They were willing to _____ to know Him.

What difficulty are you willing to endure to know God?