

In Spirit and in Truth: Rooted and Established Freedom Church of Denton

An Introduction to Christian Discipleship

Volume 1, Lesson 1

- **In Devotion** (feel free to highlight, underline, and scribble notes. Take your time, working through the following material over the course of the next week...it would be better for you to get through one sentence with understanding, than the whole lesson with no understanding!)

At the deepest and most profound level, Christian discipleship is about receiving the yoke of Christ in our lives, and learning of him, in all of his disposition, character, heart, burden, vision, and purpose (Mt. 11:29-30). It is being fully trained and enriched by the master himself in every area of the spiritual life and practice (Lk. 11:1). And while Christ humbly and carefully enjoins the children of God in this process, the ministry still properly belongs to him. Even when we are blessed enough to have a Paul in our lives, at best, we still only follow Paul, as he follows Christ (1 Co. 11:1). Paul, is only who Paul is, by virtue of the finished work of Jesus Christ in his life. Discipleship is thoroughly, from beginning to end, a work of Christ and the Holy Spirit in the heart of the child of God.

It is my heart in this lesson, that you, the young believer, would apprehend the need by faith to go to Jesus, who is the source of all that you need in your Christian life, to teach you in all of his ways. That as you meditate on the words of comfort and admonition that are supplied in the Word of God on this matter, that they would serve to begin to train you up in this most magnificent privilege and necessity afforded to every believer in Jesus Christ; that is, the art (skill) and science (wisdom) of discipleship.

It is also my prayer that whatever leverage you may possess in being able to lead others into this same process, only comes from the equity that has been accrued in your account, through your growth and exercise of the humble discipline of learning to follow. This is the first and perpetual condition of any successful discipleship that occurs; namely, the ability of the disciple to first become a follower. It is for this reason that Jesus' first requirement of each of his disciples was for them to literally walk away from all that they had previously known to begin to learn from Him a new way of living and being (Mk. 1:17).

It is only when this yoke is accepted and further anointed by the payment of the price that Christ requires of each of his disciples (which in the end, amounts to the disciple's undivided loyalty) that the individual can truly be considered one of Christ's disciples and begin to share in the reward of that same class of people. God, grant this for all who have ears to hear! I echo the prayer of Jesus, that all that the Father has given to him will be with him where he is, that they may see his glory, that was given him before the creation of the world!

• **In Meditation**

As you consider the following references, first pray and invite the Holy Spirit to come and teach you as only the Teacher and Comforter can. Admit to him your complete inability to understand anything spiritual apart from his grace and illumination. Then consider each of these verses, taking notes on anything that the Spirit brings to your attention; perhaps a **Sin** to confess, a **Promise** to claim, an **Example** to follow, a **Command** to obey, or a **Seed** of righteousness to sow. If successful, you are learning to read the Word of God with your **S.P.E.C.S.** on!

Matthew 11:29-30 _____

This passage best captures the heart and spirit of discipleship. When Christ calls us to discipleship, ultimately, who is he calling us to be like? _____

What is a yoke and what does this mean spiritually? _____

What is the difference between his yoke and ours? _____

His yoke and the yoke of the world? _____

His yoke and the yoke of the Pharisees? _____

His yoke and the yoke of the Mosaic Law? _____

Luke 6:40 _____

What is the relationship between training and discipleship? _____

Who is the trainer? _____

What is Christ's heart and goal for his disciple? _____

If Christ is the trainer, then to whom should we ultimately go to teach us how to pray? how to love? how to preach? how to meditate on the Word of God? how to be a disciple? how to disciple? _____

Mark 1:17 _____

What is Christ's aim of discipleship? _____

How does this relate to his end vision (Rev. 7:9)? _____

What does the phrase training for trainers mean? _____

Mark 3:13-14 _____

As we separate ourselves from the world, Christ calls us to be with him on the mountain. What is the significance of the mountain in the Word of God? _____

Mark 6:7-13 _____

What is the progression of Jesus' relationship with his disciples in these three verses in Mark and what does this say about the relationship and order of discipleship and

ministry? _____

According to these three verses, what is the first, second, and third requirements of discipleship? _____

What is the significance of the mountain in our lives today? _____

What should always precede our commissioning? _____

Conversely, what should always follow our consecration to Christ? _____

John 8:31-32 _____

What is a primary evidence of a true disciple of Christ? _____

How does obedience to Christ's teaching differ from obedience to the teaching of the law? _____

John 13:34 _____

What is another primary evidence of a true disciple of Christ? _____

Luke 9:23 _____

Luke 14:25-26 _____

Luke 14:33 _____

John 12:24 _____

Matthew 19:29 _____

What do all of these hard sayings have in common? _____

What is the principle that underlies all of them? _____

Why are these necessary to be a disciple of Christ? _____

What are the promises made to believers that pay the full cost of Christ-centered discipleship? _____

Matthew 28:18-20 _____

What are the key components of the Great Commission? _____

The word for "go" is in participle form, which is more properly understood in the following sense, "as you go." What is the significance of this for the disciple maker? _____

What is the difference between a go-and-tell mentality and a come-and-see mentality? _____

What is the primary verb in this command? _____

What is the scope of Christ's vision? _____

What is the content that we are to convey in the discipleship process? _____

What is the test or filter to be applied with our disciples and ultimately the gauge of progress? _____

Acts 1:8 _____

What is the tangible necessity in being a witness of Jesus Christ? _____

2 Timothy 2:2 _____

How many generations are represented in this command? _____

What are the critical conditions set forth in this command? _____

Ephesians 4:12 _____

Proverbs 27:17 _____

Mark 9:35 _____

What is the proper character of a disciple of Jesus Christ? _____

In Application

What is the difference between training/or discipleship and just teaching? _____

What are the hindrances preventing me from becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ? _____

What is the name of my Paul? My Timothy? _____

In Prayer

Lord, give me the grace to receive the “hard sayings” regarding the cost of discipleship. Give me the courage and the faith to walk in humble obedience to you and your voice, even when the world, and often the ones that mean the most to me, don’t understand.

Lord, convince me of the sufficiency of your training in the areas of my spiritual life and practice. That what I need to know about prayer, you can teach me; that what I need to know about meditation, you can instruct, that what I need to know about preaching or testifying, you can empower and anoint.

Lord, make me a true disciple of yours that learns to take of your yoke, your character, your dispositions, your plans and purposes, to love what you love and hate what you hate, to take on your character, your heart, your burden. Lord, fully train me as you trained your disciples. Teach me to pay full price to become the child of God that you desire for me.

In Sharpening Your Axe

Recommended Resources For Further Study

Disciples Are Made Not Born by Walter Henrichsen

New Life in Christ by Andrew Murray

Spiritual Disciplines by Donald Whitney