

BECOMING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

What is a disciple?

- A learner, a student
- Similar to an apprentice
- A lifetime vocation

Jesus had students (disciples)

- Matt 5:1 His students came to Him
 - And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him
- Matt 8:23 His students followed Him
 - Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him
- Mark 4:34, Luke 10:23-24 His students learned from Him.
 - And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples.
 - Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it."
- Matt 9:19 His students did what He did
 - So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.

How did Jesus treat His students?

- John 13:34 He loved them
 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you
- Matt 11:1 He commanded them
 - Now it came to pass, when Jesus finished commanding His twelve disciples, that He departed from there

- Mark 6:7, Luke 9:2 He sent them
 - And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two
 - He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.
- Matt 12:49-50 He acknowledged them
 - And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”
- Matt 20:17, John 14:1-3 He was intimate with them
 - Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside
 - Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- Matt 14:19 He used them
 - Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes

Qualifications to be His Disciple

- Matt 10:25 His students were supposed to be like Him
 - It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher
- Matt 26:19 They were supposed to obey Him
 - So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them
- Matt 16:24-25, Matt 6:33 They were to live a life of self-denial
 - 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. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it

- But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you
- Matt 16:24, Luke 12:35, 1 Cor 16:13 They were to take up their cross - to embrace it, purposefully accepting His choice for them
 - 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”
 - Do not drag your cross in self-pity, but embrace it
 - not hide it, be ashamed of it, or hide from it
 - Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning
 - Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong

Those who cannot be His disciples

Of all He taught them, these are essential.

- Luke 14:26,33 Those who do not deny themselves
 - If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple
 - So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.
- Luke 14:27 Those who do not take up their cross, and follow Him
 - And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple

Today, the Holy Spirit is our teacher

John 16:7, 13a

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage [better for you] that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;

Jesus is one man; the Holy Spirit is a spirit and, therefore, can be everywhere at the same time. The Holy Spirit teaches us, reveals to us, interprets for us, and empowers us to teach others:

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you
Jn 14:26*

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. 1 Jn 2:27

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 1 Cor 2:9-10, 13

At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Matt 11:25

And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Cor 2:4-5

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power. 1 Thess 1:5

We are commanded now to walk in Him, and give ourselves totally to Him, just as the first disciples did with Jesus.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Rom 8:1, 14

This is what a modern-day disciple is, someone who walks in [obeys the voice of] the Spirit of the Living God.