

# Disciples of Christ – 1

## What is a Disciple?

The image features a soft, painterly background in shades of green and blue. In the lower-left corner, the silhouettes of two figures are shown against a dark, grassy foreground. The figure on the left is taller, with long hair and a robe, gesturing with one hand towards the other figure. The second figure is shorter, also in a robe, standing with hands clasped. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

Closer to God (44)



# **Drawing Closer to God (2022-23)**

Thus far we have addressed:

- Who is God?
- Sin – that which separates us from God
- God's grace
- True repentance
- Pursing holiness
- Fellowship and compromise





# Disciples of Christ – 1

## What is a Disciple?



Closer to God (44)



# What is a disciple?

μαθητής, (mathētēs) – in its simplest form, a learner or student.

- But the term goes much deeper
- Describes one who learns from a teacher how to live and strives to follow his master's teachings and life.
- Involves relationship between the student and the teacher





# What is a disciple?

μαθητής, (mathētēs) – is not exclusive to our faith.

➤ Existed for centuries, prior to Christ's coming

- Philosophers
- Even among the Jews

- **Mark 2:18**

- **John 9:27-28**





# What is a disciple?

μαθητής, (mathētēs) – in scripture

- Found 274 times in the NT
  - Only in gospels and Acts
  - Sometimes – the twelve –  
**Matthew 10:1**
  - Various groups of followers –  
**Matthew 12:49-50, 8:21**
  - **Luke 6:40** - *...everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher*





# What is a disciple?

μαθητής, (mathētēs) – in scripture

➤ Acts (32x) is descriptive of all His followers

- **Acts 1:15** – about 120 disciples
- **Acts 6:1-2** – their number was multiplying
- **Acts 9:36** – Tabitha
- **Acts 11:26** – first called Christians at Antioch





# What is a disciple?

- μαθητής, (mathētēs) – is NOT found in the rest of the New Testament
- However, it clearly addresses disciples, but in other terms – brethren, saints (**Colossians 1:2, Philippians 4:21-22**), and believers **1 Timothy 4:12**





# What is a disciple?

- Discipleship – a word not found in the NT (like “Christianity”) but defined in our English language as the state of being a disciple or follower.  
*The process of becoming a committed follower of Jesus*  
(Dictionary of Bible Themes)





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24**, *Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*
- Let us consider this passage today (The first of 6 passages we will examine)





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24**, begins with **desire!**
- Desire is wanting something strongly.
  - Matthew 5:6** – hungering and thirsting
  - Colossians 3:1-2** – set your mind
- **Luke 10:41-42** – Mary chose the good part
- **Luke 14:15-24** – parable of the great supper





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24**, begins with **desire!**
- If desire is lacking, there will be no commitment (**cf. Luke 8:11-15**- the Parable of the Sower explained).  
One will NOT be a genuine disciple, nor will he seek to find others.





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24**, begins with **desire!**
- We must understand the difference between needs and desire.  
All **NEED** the gospel, but not all **DESIRE** it!  
We may convince someone of their need, but if the desire is not there, response will be superficial.  
Sometimes the responder is at fault, but could we be complicit because we pressure without conversion.  
Cf. **Acts 2:38 vs. 3:19**





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him deny himself ...
- A true disciple is not self-centered. He is surrendering his life to follow his master.
- **Romans 12:1-2**
- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**
- **1 Peter 4:1-4**
- **Galatians 2:20**  
(cf. Luke 14:26-33)





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him deny himself ...
- We are living in a time of ego and selfishness.  
So many behaviors demonstrate this!
- How much do I think about others as I plan my days and life? WHY do we think about others (is it ultimately about me)?  
**Titus 2:11-12** - will we deny ungodliness and worldly lusts?





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **deny himself** ...
- When you consider what causes sin – it always involves self  
**James 1:12-15** - it is “his own desires” that entice.
- The first **STEP** to being a disciple of Christ is a proper perspective of self  
**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **take up his cross**...
- When we think of the cross, we think of suffering. And that is the point – a willingness to endure whatever comes our way without compromising our walk with Him





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **take up his cross**...
- **2 Timothy 3:12** – all who desire to live godly... (**cf. 1 Peter 4:12-16**)
- Are we willing to endure hardships for our Master  
(**cf. 2 Timothy 2:3-4**)





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **take up his cross**...
- **1 Peter 2:21-24, 3:18** – consider how much He suffered for us
- Are we willing to suffer for Him in return? **1 Peter 4:1**





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **take up his cross**...
- **Luke 14:27** – without it we  
**CANNOT** be His disciple
- Again, **Galatians 2:20,**  
**1 Corinthians 15:30-31**  
– “I die daily”





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **take up his cross**...
- IF for some reason we are blessed to not have to suffer persecutions for Him (**cf. Acts 22:25, 25:11-12**), we are still living a life of sacrifice and paying a price for our faith
- **1 Corinthians 15:30-31**  
– “I die daily”





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **take up his cross daily**...
- Only in Luke (**cf. Matt. 16:24,**  
**Mark 8:34**), this is a daily calling.  
We do not go on vacation from  
serving Him!  
It is a 24/7/365 commitment





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **follow Me**
- This describes a disciple!
- More than walking around, but living  
His example

**Matthew 4:19** – fishers of men

**Matt. 8:22** – let the dead  
bury their own

**Matt. 9:9, 16:24\*, 19:21**





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **follow Me**
- How do we follow Him?  
He is no longer on earth.
- **Luke 9:57-62** – no excuses!  
**John 8:31, 14:21** – we obey His  
teachings and commands  
**John 12:26** – we serve  
Him





# A disciple of Jesus

- **Luke 9:23-24,**  
... let him **follow Me**
- **Matthew 19:27-29** – notice the promised reward if we follow Him as His disciples





# A disciple of Jesus

## ➤ **Luke 9:23-24**

### ➤ Consider the order of this text:

With genuine desire

- We surrender ourselves

- We determine that we are willing to suffer for Him

- Therefore, we listen to and imitate Him –

**1 Corinthians 11:1,**

**1 Peter 2:21,**

**Philippians 2:4-5,**

**Ephesians 5:1-2, etc.**





# Are you a disciple of Christ?

Drawing Closer to God 2022-23





Let us pray!

