

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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DISCIPLESHIP

STUDY GUIDE



DISCIPLESHIP

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28:18-20 (HCSB)

Then Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Luke 14:25-35 (HCSB)

Now great crowds were traveling with him. So he turned and said to them: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, and his own life—he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to make fun of him, saying, ‘This man started to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with 10,000 to oppose the one who comes against him with 20,000? If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. In the same way, therefore, everyone of you who does not say good-bye to all his possessions cannot be My disciple. Now, salt is good, but if salt should lose its taste, how will it be made salty? It isn’t fit for the soil, or the manure pile; they throw it out. Anyone who has ears to hear should listen.”

THEME

It is imperative that we become disciples of Jesus; otherwise, we will not carry out Jesus’ mandate to make disciples of all nations. There is more to becoming a disciple than a simple confession; a true disciple is devoted to imitating his master. A true disciple of Jesus is one who is totally committed to doing the will of the Father.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. We are commanded by Jesus to make disciples. (Matthew 28:19)
 1. Becoming a disciple precedes making disciples.

2. The disciples are to be disciples of Jesus, not of men.
 3. Discipling is good only when Jesus is seen as the Master.
- B. Paul made disciples, but he always made them followers of Jesus. (I Corinthians 11:1)
- C. The definition of disciple can be better understood by looking at the Greek word translated as disciple.
1. *Mathetes* means a learner; a pupil; one who follows another's teaching.
 2. A disciple, in the true sense of the word, is more than just a follower or adherent; he must be an imitator of his teacher.

II. THE MAKING OF A DISCIPLE

- A. One must be converted before he can become a disciple.
1. Disciples must abandon the one they are following to go after another.
 2. Disciples must change from their previous way of life and opinions and follow the way of their new master.
- B. One must be born again before he can truly become a disciple of Jesus.
- C. Once a person becomes a convert, there are many changes he must make in his life in order to become a true disciple.
- D. Disciples are made as a result of submission.
1. Disciples must submit to the teaching and conduct of their instructor.
 2. Disciples must resist any teaching or conduct contrary to the teaching of their master.
- E. We cannot force people to become disciples, but we must invite and instruct people and encourage them to become disciples of Jesus.

III. FACTS ABOUT DISCIPLES

- A. A disciple is not above his master or teacher. (Matthew 10:24)
 - 1. The disciple listens to his master; he does not teach his master.
 - 2. The disciple submits to his master; he does not usurp his master's authority.
- B. The disciple imitates his master or teacher.
- C. Imitating the teacher requires commitment and hard work, but it is the mark of a true disciple.
- D. The disciple must take on the attitude expressed by John when he said, "He must increase and I must decrease." (John 3:30)
 - 1. The more we become like the Master, the less we will act like self.
 - 2. We must exalt the Master and dethrone self.
- E. A disciple is a disciplined follower of his master.
- F. The word "disciple(s)" is mentioned 241 times in the gospels, and 31 times in the book of Acts.
- G. The word "disciple" is not mentioned anywhere else in the New Testament.
- H. The word "church" is only mentioned 3 times in the gospels (Matthew 16:18; 18:17), but 111 times in the remainder of the New Testament.
- I. Without disciples there is no Church.
- J. The objective of making disciples is to build the Church of Jesus Christ.

IV. REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A DISCIPLE OF JESUS (LUKE 14:25-35)

- A. Jesus must be a disciple's first priority. (Luke 14:26)
 - 1. No one or no thing can come before Jesus.

2. "Hate not" is a term of comparison illustrating a disciple's dedication to his master. In this setting, it literally means to love less. (Matthew 10:37)
- B. The disciple must bear his cross, which is self-denial. (Luke 14:27)
1. The cross is an instrument of death.
 2. The cross we are to bear is death to self.
- C. The disciple must follow after Jesus. (Luke 14:27)
- D. Every prospective disciple must count the cost. (Luke 14:28-32)
1. A prospective disciple must be realistic.
 2. The prospective disciple must ask himself; "Does Christ mean more to me than anyone or anything?"
- E. The disciple must forsake all. (Luke 14:33)
1. Discipleship can be compared to military service.
 - a. One who joins the military becomes the property of the military.
 - b. The military is responsible for providing the soldiers with food, clothing, and lodging.
 - c. One who becomes a disciple of Jesus must agree to active duty in God's army.
 2. In Philippians 3:7-8, Paul gives us a classic example of forsaking all.
- F. The disciple must continue in the Word. (John 8:31)
- G. Disciples must love one another. (John 13:34-35)
- H. Disciples must bear much fruit. (John 15:7-8)
- I. True disciples will not place their attention on material things. (Luke 12:22)

V. JESUS' DISCIPLES

- A. Multitudes followed Jesus, but He did not call any of them His disciples.
- B. Jesus named the “twelve,” apostles (delegates or ambassadors of the gospel); He did not call them disciples. (Luke 6:13)
- C. Jesus’ use of the word “disciple” is only recorded ten times, and He never referred to any one person as His disciple.
 - 1. Matthew records Jesus’ use of the word “disciple” 3 times. (Matthew 10:24, 25, 42)
 - 2. Luke records Jesus’ use of the word “disciple” 4 times. (Luke 6:40; 14:26, 27, 33)
 - 3. John records Jesus’ use of the word disciple 3 times. (John 8:31; 13:35; 15:8)
- D. Jesus asked many to follow Him (apostles, rich young ruler, etc.), but not everyone He asked became a disciple of Jesus.
- E. We can classify Jesus’ followers into four categories of disciples and apply this truth to the present day followers of Jesus:
 - 1. The first category is the “multitudes” (5,000, 4,000, etc.).
 - 2. The second category is the “seventy.”
 - 3. The third category is the “twelve.”
 - 4. The fourth and most important category is the “three.”
 - 5. Every professing Christian will fit into one of these categories.
- F. Jesus refused to compromise in order to get disciples or to keep them. The following scriptures reveal this truth:
 - 1. Mark 10:17-22
 - 2. Luke 9:57-62
 - 3. Luke 14:25-27

4. John 6:53-57

VI. SUMMARY

- A. We have a mandate to make disciples of all nations.
- B. Disciples are made as a result of submission.
- C. We are to train people to become disciples of Jesus, not of men.
- D. A disciple is a disciplined follower of his teacher.
- E. Jesus presented some uncompromising requirements to which His followers must adhere.
- F. There are four categories of disciples: the “multitudes;” the “seventy;” the “twelve;” and the “three.”
- G. True discipleship has no room for compromise.

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. We must learn the definition of disciple from Jesus’ perspective.
- B. Jesus’ interest is not in the number of followers, but rather in the faithfulness of His followers.
- C. We can only become true disciples of Jesus by meeting His requirements.

FOUR CATEGORIES OF DISCIPLESHIP

I. MULTITUDES (MATTHEW 14:13-22)

- A. The “multitudes” are the large groups that followed Jesus, such as the “four thousand” and the “five thousand.”
- B. The “multitudes” physically followed Jesus. (Matthew 14:13)
- C. Many in the “multitudes” were healed. (Matthew 14:14)
- D. The “four thousand” and the “five thousand” were physically fed by Jesus. (Matthew chapters 14 & 15)
- E. The “multitudes” saw many miracles. (John 6:2)
- F. The “multitudes” came to hear Jesus teach the Word of God. (Luke 5:15)
- G. The “multitudes” wanted to make Jesus their king. (John 6:14-15)
- H. The “multitudes,” as a whole, followed for the benefits, not for service.
- I. Many turned and walked away from Jesus when He taught the need for all-out commitment. (John 6:53-68)
- J. The “multitudes” will follow Jesus as long as it does not require commitment.
- K. The “multitudes” can be categorized as **spectators**. They were curious.
- L. The “multitudes” look out for themselves.

II. THE SEVENTY

- A. The “seventy” came out of the multitudes.
- B. The “seventy” were sent on a mission by Jesus. (Luke 10:1-20)
- C. Power was given to the “seventy” to heal the sick and to cast out devils.

- D. The “seventy” came back rejoicing because of the power manifested through them.
- E. The “seventy” were more excited by the manifestations of power than by Jesus.
- F. The “seventy” were reprimanded by Jesus and told to place their attention in the proper place. (Luke 10:20)
- G. The record we have of the “seventy” revolves around the manifestation of power.
- H. We have no indication or hint of the “seventy” getting any closer to Jesus than operating with manifestations of power.
- I. Many people today have come from the “multitudes” and into the “seventy,” but they are content with manifestations, and they do not seek a more intimate relationship with Jesus.
- J. The “seventy” are **participators**. They were convinced.
- K. Identification with the “seventy” requires involvement.

III. THE TWELVE

- A. The “twelve” were among the first to follow Jesus.
- B. The “twelve” were also among the “multitudes,” but they were close by the side of Jesus.
- C. The “twelve” distributed the food to the “multitudes.”
- D. The “twelve” had the same power that the “seventy” demonstrated. (Luke 9:1-2)
- E. The “twelve” were not content with just power, but they also spent much time with Jesus learning kingdom principles and operations.
- F. The “twelve” went with Jesus where the “multitudes” and the “seventy” could not go.
- G. The “twelve” spent much time with Jesus.
- H. Jesus identified the “twelve” as apostles. (Luke 6:13)

- I. The “twelve” moved beyond the “multitude,” past the “seventy,” and became private pupils of Jesus.
- J. The “twelve” experienced many difficulties that the “multitudes” and “seventy” avoided.
- K. To identify with the “twelve” requires commitment.
- L. The “twelve” were **servants**. They were committed.

IV. THE THREE

- A. The “three” came out of the “twelve.”
- B. Not only were the “three” deeply committed, but they held Jesus at the center of their attention.
- C. The “three” went with Jesus to places no one else was allowed to go.
 - 1. The “three” went into the house of Jairus and saw unprecedented power. (Luke 8:51)
 - 2. The “three” went with Jesus to the mountain and saw Jesus transfigured, thereby seeing unprecedented glory. (Mark 9:2)
 - 3. The “three” went with Jesus into the Garden of Gethsemane and witnessed unprecedented agony. (Mark 14:32-33)
- D. The “three” were intimate friends of Jesus.
- E. The “three” became pillars in the Church. (Galatians 2:9)
- F. The “three” forsook everything and followed Jesus. (Luke 18:28)
- G. To be identified with the “three” requires self-denial.
- H. The “three” became **slaves** of Christ. They were consumed.

V. SUMMARY

- A. Remember the four categories of disciples:
 - 1. The multitudes - curious

2. The seventy - convinced
 3. The twelve - committed
 4. The three - consumed
- B. The “multitudes” were concerned about self.
 - C. The “seventy” were focused on manifestations.
 - D. The “twelve” were committed; therefore, they were closer to Jesus; yet one betrayed Him, Judas.
 - E. The “three” had an intimate relationship with Jesus which was not shared by the others.
 - F. The disciples of Jesus included spectators, participators, workers, and slaves.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The inner circle is closer to Jesus.
- B. Intimacy with Jesus requires a deepening of commitment. We progress from the “multitudes” to the “seventy” to the “twelve” to the “three.”
- C. Although the “three” were close to Jesus, John was recognized as the one whom Jesus loved. It appears that he was more intimate with Jesus than Peter or James.
- D. The quantity and the quality of time we spend with Jesus will determine into which category of disciples we fit.
- E. Intimacy with Jesus reveals great power, great glory, and great suffering.
- F. Jesus accepts no excuses when looking for disciples. (Luke 14:16-27)
 1. “One bought a piece of ground” depicts placing material things as a priority over Jesus.
 2. “One bought five yoke of oxen” depicts placing one’s source of income as a priority over Jesus.

3. “One married a wife” depicts placing the family as a priority over Jesus.
- G. The only way we can truly become dedicated disciples of Jesus is to forsake all.
 - H. A disciple of Jesus is a faithful follower of both His teaching and His conduct.
 - I. Discipleship is a prerequisite in becoming a leader. We begin as spectators; we progress to participators; then we become servants; finally we become slaves. Once we become slaves we are then ready to lead. (Matthew 20:25-28; Mark 9:33-35; Mark 10:35-45)
 - J. Jesus is building a Body, not a building. Disciples precede the Church; the Church is made-up of disciples.
 - K. One cannot make a person become a disciple of Jesus; however, one can make disciples of those who are willing to follow Jesus.
 - L. Only those who desire to know God’s Word and be led by His Spirit will truly become dedicated disciples of Jesus.

