

What is a Disciple?

Back to the Basics | Week 2

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Big Idea

A disciple of Jesus is one who follows Jesus, is changed by Jesus, and is on mission with Jesus.

Why This Matters

It is easy to drift and forget what we do and why we do it.

Hebrews 2:1 "We must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it."

We do not want to drift away from the biblical mandate of what it means to be Jesus' church and Jesus' disciples.

Jesus Told Us to Make Disciples

Matthew 28:18-20 - Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Jesus told His disciples to:

- Go make disciples
- Baptize them
- Teach them

What Did the First Disciples Do?

Acts 2:37-42 - Peter told the people to repent and be baptized. Those who accepted the message were baptized, and then "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

- They repented and were baptized - just as Jesus commanded.
- They devoted themselves to being taught - just as Jesus commanded.

The word "disciple" simply means "a learner."

If you say you are a follower of Jesus - a Christian or believer - then you are a disciple of Jesus. A disciple is willing to follow, learn, and obey.

You can't say that you are on team Jesus, but then not allow Him to be your coach.

What Is a Disciple?

Matthew 4:19 - Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

A disciple is one who is:

- **Following Jesus**
- **Being changed by Jesus**
- **On mission with Jesus**

1. Following Jesus

Following Jesus means repenting of sin, being baptized, and surrendering to Christ and His Lordship.

It means taking off my jersey and putting on team Jesus' jersey.

Luke 9:23-24 - "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."

2. Being Changed by Jesus

When we decide to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins changing us. This is sanctification - allowing the Holy Spirit to change us from the inside out.

- Conversion is part of discipleship, but it cannot stop there.
- As we are taught by the Holy Spirit and by others, we come into alignment with how God wants us to live.
- We cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He changes us.

1 John 1:6 - "We are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth."

The Evidence of Change

Galatians 5:19-25; Galatians 5:25 contrasts the works of our sinful nature with the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit.

- Sinful nature: sexual immorality, impurity, idolatry, hostility, jealousy, anger, selfish ambition, division, envy, drunkenness and other sins.
- Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

A disciple is not merely someone who made a decision for Jesus. A disciple is someone Jesus is actively changing.

3. On Mission with Jesus

Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Jesus' mission is to seek and save the lost and to make disciples. If we follow Jesus, His mission becomes our mission.

- Jesus said He would make us "fishers of men."
- We go out and reach people with the gospel and the love of God.
- We give our time, talent, and treasure to the mission of Jesus.

What Does This Look Like for Us?

FOLLOW JESUS

- Repent
- Get baptized

BE CHANGED BY JESUS

- Pray - ask God to grow you in an area where you are struggling.
- Ask a trusted friend to pray for you and allow others to pray with you.
- Attend - consistently hear God's Word preached so you can learn and grow.
- Connect - get into a group that can walk alongside you and help you grow.
- Serve - use the gifts God has given you to serve other people.

BE ON MISSION WITH JESUS

- Invite - intentionally reach people with the gospel and love of God.
- Give - invest your time, talent AND treasure in the mission of Jesus.

Bottom Line

A disciple follows Jesus, is being changed by Jesus, and lives on mission with Jesus.

Response

- Am I truly following Jesus and surrendered to His Lordship?
- Where is the Holy Spirit changing me right now?
- Who am I helping reach and disciple?
- What is my next step: repent, be baptized, pray, attend, connect, serve, invite, or give?

