

The Definition and Development of a Disciple

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct. 5th

The Great Commission is a Revelation of God's Invitation for a:

- Restoration of a relationship with God. (Salvation Mt 28:19; Mark 16:15)
- Identification / Association with Christ and His Church. (Baptism Mt 28:19; Ro. 6)
- Process for personal Transformation (Discipleship Mt 28:20; Ro. 12:1,2; Ro. 8:29)

This transformation involves a process.

Mt. 28:20 *"Teaching them to observe (tereo: to value, Keep) all things whatsoever I have commanded you."*
(Entellōmai': from en: fixed position (where we are) and telos: to set out for a definite point or goal!

Discipleship involves a journey that moves us from where we currently are, to where (and what) God has designed us to be.

This process can be summarized by three commands Jesus repeatedly gave his followers.

"Follow me" Mt 4:19; *"Learn of me"* Mt. 11:29; and *"Abide in me"* Jn 15:4

Jesus was both intentional and relational, clearly and consistently calling his followers to partner with him in a committed, relational, and transformational journey.

Mt 4:19 Mt 4:19 *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Their response led to a Purposeful, Practical, Powerful, & Personal (relational) Transformation of their Purposes, Priorities, and even their Passions; such that they came into alignment with those of Jesus. Our obedient response will do the same! (Ro 8:28,29; 12:1,2; 2 Cor 3:18)

Notice the dimensions of this process.

1. Their (our) part *"Follow me"* Mt 4:19

A. Luke 5 provides the back story.

- 1) Jesus used their boat as a platform to teach. 1-3 They became a type of "Captive audience".
- 2) He then directed them to go fishing again (vs 4) to which they reluctantly obeyed. (vs 5)
- 3) Peter/Andrew asked John/James to help. Vs 7
- 4) Learning about Jesus, they saw themselves differently. Vs 8 *"I am a sinful man, O Lord"*
- 5) They were all affected & astonished. Lk 5 9-10 *"astonished"*
- 6) Jesus command & promise was clear. 10b *"Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men."*
- 7) Their choice/challenge was equally clear. 11 *"they forsook all, and followed him."*

B. Jesus' command required a decision/commitment.

- 1) They understood (to some degree) who he was.

Lk 5:5 "Master" (epistat'ēs: to stand before)

Lk 5:8 "O Lord." (kurios': supreme authority)

- a) Over the next 3 years with Jesus they would grow to understand him much more clearly and therefore, follow (obey) him more confidently.
- b) Even the Priest's later recognized this! Acts 4:13

- 2) They understood what he was asking of them. *What part of "follow me" was/is unclear?*

- 3) This command was unconditional and open ended! *The only guarantee Jesus offered was in the promise he gave them upon their obedient response.*

2. God's part: *"I will make you"* Mark 1:17 adds *"to become"* Mk 1:17

A. Transformation is God's Job! Phil. 2:13

- 1) God promised to change not only their livelihood, but their very heart and lives.

B. Transformation requires submission and cooperation.

1) This promise was conditioned on their willingness to obediently “Follow Him”.

Ro. 12:1,2 *“Present your bodies a living sacrifice...”*

2) He gives the same command and promise to us! Mt 16:24-27

C. Transformation is Powerful, Personal, Progressive, and Painful. (Ro 8:22-29)

2 Cor 3:18 *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

3. God’s Plan *“Fishers of Men”* A partnership with God’s Purposes

A. God’s plan has never changed. Mal. 3:6

1) He revealed this plan to Israel. Ex. 19:5,6 *“if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me...And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.”*

2) He reveals it to us! 1 Peter 2:9 *“ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”*

B. Jesus came to make this possible. Jn 3:16; Luke 24:46-48 *“Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, And ye are witnesses of these things.”*

C. God’s plan involves our participation in the Great Commandment (Mt 22:37-40) that motivates and empowers the Great Commission. (Mt 28:18-20)

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: And Lo I am with you always...”

Conclusion: The dimensions of discipleship. Mt 4:19

➤ Our Part: *“Follow me”* A decision of our minds.

➤ God’s Part: *“I will make you”* A transformation of our hearts.

➤ God’s Plan *“Fishers of Men”* A partnership with God’s Purposes

These dimensions provide an accurate, biblical definition of a disciple.

Mt. 4:19 *“Follow me”* Someone who is actively following (obeying) Jesus;

“and I will make you” Someone who is being changed (transformed) by Jesus;

“fishers of men” Someone who is in partnership with Jesus’ mission to reach others.

Application:

Are you a disciple of Jesus by His definition?

Jn 10:31 *“As the Father hath sent me, So send I you”*

Rev. 22:17 *“The Spirit and the Bride say come!”*

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19

