**Discipleship**

**Introduction**

Jesus enters time and space in order to teach, heal (Mt 8:16-17), and save us from our sins (Mt 1:21). Jesus’ public ministry begins in Matthew 4:12-17. His first message is recorded in Matthew 4:17: Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Immediately after this Matthew records that Jesus begins calling people to follow Him (Matthew 4:18-22). What does it mean to be a disciple? What will the outcome be? What Does discipleship look like? ***Are we a fan or a disciple?***

**1. Discipleship aims to please the Lord**

In Matthew 10 Jesus is sending his disciples out on the limited commission to the nation of Israel. He warns them what it is going to be like to go out preaching and healing like He has done. He warns them about difficulties they will encounter.

* Matthew 10:24-25

Jesus was hated so those who follow Him can expect to be treated in the same way. You will be hated simply because you are a follower of mine. You will even be mistreated by those who you would expect to care for you: your family (10:21-22). We are called to confess the Lord before men (10:32-33) and put our relationship with Jesus before even our earthly family (10:34-39).

* Colossians 3:23-24: You serve the Lord
* 2 Timothy 2:3-4: Please the one who enlisted you

The goal of a disciple is to please the Lord. The activity does not matter. If we are a disciple then if we are at work, on vacation, with friends, or whatever we are involved in we are seeking to please the Lord.

**2. Discipleship is transformative**

In Matthew 10:24-25 Jesus talks about how the disciple will become like the master. There is an expectation that the disciple will be transformed by the Lord.

Matthew 4:19: I will make you fishers of men.

This reminds us that we Jesus’ help to engage in His work. We are not naturals but it is going to take work and effort for Him to make us useable for Him.

* James and John: Son of thunder (Mk 3:17)
  + Call down fire on Samaritan village (Lk 9:51-56)
  + Asking for positions of power (Mt 20:20-23)
  + James is the first to die (Acts 12:1-2)
  + John preaches to Samaritans (Acts 8:14)
  + John learns what love is by looking at Jesus (1 Jn 3:16; 4:7-10)
* Peter: Afraid to admit he know Jesus to slave girl; Preaches at day of Pentecost
* Sinful woman of Luke 7:36-50
* Blind man (Jn 9): Transformed into a disciples who stands for Jesus
* Ananias (Acts 9:10-18) imitates Jesus by loving his enemies

Acts 4:13: It is clear Peter and John had been shaped by Jesus

* Are we being transformed by Jesus?
* Is it evident that we have been sitting at His feet?

**3. Discipleship is costly**

Mt 16:24-28

Mk 8:34-38

Lk 14:25-33

We count the cost for everything that we do in life. Discipleship is not a part time job, and it is not simple it demands everything. It cost Jesus everything to make a way for us to be with Him for eternity, so being a disciple is going to be difficult. If we are being transformed and imitating Jesus, then we know the cost of following Him.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) lived in Germany during Hitler’s rise to power. He became an outspoken critic of Hitler and began to smuggle Jews out of the country to safety. His life was in danger, and he escaped to America for a few month but decided he could not stay away while others suffered. He returned because he knew that being a disciple meant paying a high cost. He died in a concentration camp only a day before those in the camp were released. Bonhoeffer knew what it meant to pick up one’s cross and count the cost.

**4. Discipleship is responsive (Mk. 1:16-20; Mt 4:18-22)**

When Jesus calls these four men notice they respond by following him immediately. There is an urgency to the call of discipleship. This cannot be put off. They do not need to think about his call or get something “straightened out in their life” just respond right away.

* Left nets (4:20)
* Left boat, father (4:22)
* Fish (Lk 5:11); Tell whole story of Luke 5:1-11

Some people try with Jesus the “I want to follow you later” routine and it does not go well (Lk 9:57-62). This is an easy trap to fall into and I see it all the time. I am going to get everything figured out with God and then when it is all figured out then I will be a disciple. These people either never come to the Lord or they fall away. There is no in between.

What aspects of our life will improve by us running it and not Jesus?

What aspects of our life will he make a mess of that we would handle brilliantly?

**5. Discipleship is communal**

* Mk. 10:28-30

This statement occurs in the context of the story of the “Rich Young Ruler.” Jesus’ statement in 10:23-25 causes the disciples to be shocked (10:24, 26). Part of Jesus’ point is salvation comes not through good works or wealth, but by submitting to God.

a) We are a family

Throughout the Bible we read and immense amount about how God’s people are supposed to be a family. Jesus identifies his true family as those who do the will of our father in heaven (Mt 12:46-50). Throughout the NT it is amazing to see how often we are referred to in this way (1 Tim 5:1; 1 Cor 12; Heb 2). We should take the family of faith seriously.

b) Community

If we are a family in the Lord, then we need to take community seriously. Community is not coming in and running out avoiding the people you do not like. The disciple does not live life in isolation away from his family in the faith. Discipleship is lived out in community.

* Acts 2:44-47
* 1 Jn 1:7

**6. Discipleship is Mission focused**

* Mt 4:19
* Lk 5:10-11
* Mt 28:16-20

Jesus calls us for a purpose. Jesus gives us a life mission. Being fishers of men is probably going to be messy and mean dealing with people one at a time.

1. Discipleship is essential (Mk. 1:15)