



Calvary of Albuquerque

Are You a Follower-Really? - John 1:35-42

From the Series, Believe:879

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

You can't make it through much of the Bible without coming to the word Disciple. Just the four Gospels alone use this term 228 times. Basically a disciple is the follower of a teacher: one who observes, learns, and practices what the teacher shares. We now come to the first time John uses this term in his book. So today we assess ourselves by asking, "Are YOU a follower?" Let's look at five characteristics of the first disciples of Jesus and see if they're reflected in our lives.

OUTLINE

1. **Transition** (vss. 35-37) *Every Believer Should be a Disciple*
2. **Evaluation** (vs. 38) *Every Disciple Must Sift Motives*
3. **Submission** (vss. 38-39) *True Disciples Respond to Commands*
4. **Mission** (vss. 40-41) *Disciples Want to Make Other Disciples*
5. **Transformation** (vs. 42) *Disciples Don't Stay in a Rut; They Grow*



For Home Fellowships:

1. Develop and discuss the biblical definition of a *Disciple*. In your opinion does this describe most people who designate themselves as Christians?
2. How often do you evaluate yourself honestly? How could a network of others around you help that process? Why not ask one or two others to start this on a regular basis?
3. Why are we so prone to follow people rather than Christ?

DETAILED NOTES

According to Juan Carlos Ortiz, in his book "Disciple," a disciple is someone who follows Jesus Christ. Just because we are Christians doesn't mean we are disciples. Jesus said, "Follow Me." The term is used the first time in vs. 35. Follow is used 3x in this text. Our problem is we are not keen on following. We want control. Surrendering our will to another is against our human nature.

GK Chesterton says following Jesus is not always easy. Luke 9:23 says we must deny self and take up our cross daily. We live in a culture of self indulgence, not self denial.

Discipleship comes in stages as we are transformed into His image.

Discipleship- A lifelong process of conformity to an alien will.

Five Stages and Characteristics of Discipleship

1. **Transition** (vss. 35-37) *Every Believer Should be a Disciple*
John the Baptists is handing off his disciples to follow Christ. They believed in God, and followed the teaching of John the Baptist, with messianic hope. John told them to follow Christ and they did. We must not follow merely a man teacher or system, but Jesus Himself. Healthy leaderships lead followers to follow Jesus himself. Unhealthy adherence to a system is characterized by filtering every experience and truth through the system. 1 Corinthians 1 Stop worshipping those who teach, and worship Christ wholeheartedly.
2. **Evaluation** (vs. 38) *Every Disciple Must Sift Motives*
Verse 38 is the first time Jesus speaks in the Gospel of John and the first words in His public ministry. He asks a question, "What do you want?" He wasn't asking for information. It is an evaluating, thought provoking question. When God asks questions he knows the answer. He wants us, or the person asked to know the answer. For example in Genesis 3 he asks Adam, "Where are you?", He asks the disciples in Matthew 16, "Who do men say I am? Who do you say I am?", in John 5 he asks a paralyzed man, "Do you want to be made whole?" He will ask Peter, "Do you love Me." He asks these questions to evoke evaluation. Who do you have in your life who will ask you the hard questions? Is your faith genuine? AW Tozer in the "Pursuit of God": Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He wants to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long in vain." A true disciple takes spiritual inventory from time to time.
3. **Submission** (vss. 38-39) *True Disciples Respond to Commands*
A true disciple responds to scriptural commands. This is a very unusual introduction. The disciples ask Him where He is staying. Greek word is menó which means abide. They are saying they want to come closer, to get further instruction. Jesus doesn't give them information, He gives them an invitation, "Come and See." His invitation is met by their submission. As a disciple you come to Jesus and as you spend time with him and obey you get intimacy and depth. Jesus said come and see and they came and saw. His command was met with obedience.

They did not question him. The real test of discipleship is submission. In Luke 6 Jesus asked "Why do you call me Lord if you don't do what I say?" This is the issue of lordship. He is the boss! We must come to grips with it. We say "Lord", but our formal theology must meet our practical theology. We must practice His lordship every day. It is one thing to say you are something; it is another thing to Be something. We ought not claim to be Christ followers without a concept of Lordship. Note: 10th hour. John is reckoning time in Roman time, not Jewish time. His knowledge of the time and the weight he gives it reveals he is the unnamed disciple in the text. John never names himself, but he knew the time. His life changed and some 60 years later when this is written he remembered when he met Jesus, everything changed.

4. **Mission (vss. 40-41) *Disciples Want to Make Other Disciples***

When Andrew found the messiah, he couldn't keep it to himself. He goes back to his family. Whenever we see Andrew he is always bringing people to Jesus (the boy with loaves, the Greeks, Peter). There is an automatic chain-reaction when a true disciple is following Jesus - he wants others to follow Jesus. Andrew means "manliness", Real men want others to know Jesus. Every Christian loves the gospel, but a disciple is never content to go to heaven alone.

5. **Transformation (vs. 42) *Disciples Don't Stay in a Rut; They Grow***

We should be growing now, and in the future. When Jesus met Peter, he saw right through him. He saw him as he is and what he will become. You are Simon- birth name, will be Peter - Rock. Simon Peter wasn't solid at all. (Mount of Transfiguration, Garden of Gethsemane, Rooftop in Joppa) but He became rock solid over time (leader in the church, wrote 2 New Testament epistles, source for the gospel of Mark, preached on Pentecost, crucified upside down. Jesus sees our potential. The more dissolved into Christ and dominated by His will the more useful you'll be to His kingdom.

Keywords: John the Baptist, discipleship

Greek Terms - akolouthéo - to follow as a disciple, menó - abide, cristos - Christ

Hebrew Terms - mashiach - messiah

Figures Referenced: GK Chesterton, Socrates,

Publications Referenced: "Disciple" by Juan Carlos Ortiz, Leadership Magazine, "The Pursuit of God," by AW Tozer

Cross References: Genesis 3, Matthew 16, Luke 6, Luke 9:23, John 5, John 15, 1 Corinthians 1, 2 Corinthians 13:5