

## Defining Discipleship Part 2

### Review

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Jesus did not say,
  - Go and build big churches
  - Go and feed the hungry
  - Go and have worship gatherings
  - Go and marriage conferences
- Not that any of those things are bad things to do. We have been doing these things for decades.
  - I just wonder what election night would have been like in our nation if the church in our nation understood what disciple-making is all about.
  - Think about what our nation would be like if 75% of our church going citizens were sold out, all in, Jesus loving, cross bearing, disciple-making, faith-filled disciples of Jesus.

### Casting some Vision for 2023

Next year an overriding theme is going to be the **Discipline of Discipleship**.

We are updating our Discipleship Course call the Journey Discipleship Experience. We are investing in a professional Video production company to recreate 3 modules of 36 teachings on discipleship.

A disciple is a person who is learning to live the life Jesus lived and with his life, he is helping others do the same.

- Discipleship Groups with Discipleship Coaches who will facilitate the training.
  - Men with men and women with women.
- 3 – 12 week modules
  - **My New Life** – *what discipleship look like for a new believer?*
  - **My Balanced Life** – what does discipleship look like in my everyday life (personal life? work life? my married life?). For many of us we get our everyday life out of balance with the goal of discipleship.
  - **My Ministry Life** – all of us have a call for ministry in some area of the kingdom. The goal of the Journey is to help you discover and activate your ministry life.
- The Journey Discipleship Schedule for 2023 (create a slide of the schedule)

Count the Cost before you sign up!

Luke 6:40 ESV A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is **fully trained** will be like his teacher.

- The goal of a disciple is to be like his teacher.
- Becoming like Christ involves training.

### The Importance of Training.

**NEW** 1 Corinthians 9:25,26 NLT All athletes are **disciplined** in their **training**. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. **26** So I run with **purpose** in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.

1. **Disciplined** – can you see the word “disciple” in the word “discipline”
  - In essence I am talking to you about the **discipline of discipleship**.
  - Without discipline we are not disciples, even though we profess His Name and pass for being followers Jesus.

**new**

*In an **undisciplined age** when **liberty** and **license** have replaced **law** and **loyalty**, there is greater need than ever before that we be disciplined to be His disciples.*

*CS Lewis Institute*

2. **Purpose** – “*So I run with **purpose** in every step.*”
  - **NEW** In the Journey Discipleship Experience we say often: **Life is a journey, and everybody is going somewhere in life, but true disciples are going somewhere on purpose.**
  - Notice Paul said, I am not just **shadow boxing**. This thing is real! I am in fight with a real enemy and I am training because **plan to WIN!**
3. **Training** – In the American church we have been **Big on Entertaining and Soft on Training**.
  - We can draw big crowds in America but can we turn them into disciples?

How did Jesus train his disciples?

### Jesus Trained His Disciples in 3 Primary Areas

#### How to Think

- 1) **The mindset of Disciple is a brand-new way of the thinking.**

Why we call the first Module **My New Life**

- 2) **Crowd Mentality** vs a **Disciples Mentality**.

a) **Jesus drew enormous crowds.**

Do a couple of miracles, **feed a few thousand with a basket of loaves and fishes** and you will get a crowd.

b) **Three characteristics of the Crowd.**

i) **They only think about themselves.**

“... you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs” John 6:26 NLT

ii) **The don't know who to follow or where to go.**

Mark 6:34 NLT Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

iii) **They struggle to with commitment.**

“When the followers of Jesus heard this, many of them said, this teaching is hard. Who can accept it? John 6:20 (NCV)

“After Jesus said this, many of his followers left him and stopped following him” John 6:66 (NCV)

3) **A Disciple has an Unshakable Faith in the teachings of Christ.**

John 6:67-69 ESV So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” **68** Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words** of eternal life, **69** and we have **believed**, and have **come to know** (faith that has been processed through following), **that you are the Holy One of God.**”

4) **Jesus spent a lot of time changing their religious thinking to kingdom thinking.**

The disciples had to unlearn a lot of religious thinking.

- In Matthews Gospel Jesus **corrects their religious thinking 15 times**. He says over and over, “**You have heard it said, but I say...**”
- **If you want to have the mind of Christ, find every time Jesus said this**, “You have heard it said... but I say to you...”
- Jesus identified the sharp contrast between a religious mentality and a Kingdom mentality.

*Next He trained them in not only in **how to think...***

**What to Be**

1) Take a look at the “**want to be's of discipleship**”

- a) **If you want to be great**, you must be servant of all. (Mt 20:26) **be a servant**

- b) **If you want to be first**, you must be last... (Mt 9:35) **put others first**
- c) **If you want to be perfect** go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Mt 19:21 NIV) **invest your life in the kingdom**

## 2) The Be – attitude

Mt 5:2-12 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

**3** “Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** “Blessed are those who **mourn**, for **they will be comforted**.

**5** “Blessed are the **meeek**, for they will **inherit the earth**.

**6** “Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled.

**7** “Blessed are the **merciful**, for **they will receive mercy**.

*NTS: this is who Jesus wants you to BE*

**8** “Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for **they will see God**.

**9** “Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called **children of God**.

**10** “Blessed are those who are **persecuted for righteousness’ sake**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Life of a disciple is a blessed life.

- **There is a blessing attached to the disciplines of discipleship!**

This is why we call the second module of the Journey the **Balanced Blessed Life**.

**John 12:25 TPT** If you want to be my disciple, **follow me** and you will go where I am going (**purpose**). And if you **truly follow** me as my **disciple**, the **Father will shower his favor upon your life**.

*How to **think, what to be** and...*

### What to Do

Matt 10:1 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

Mt 10:8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

1) **He taught them** (Imparted truth).

2) **He showed them** (Modeled it).

3) **He released them** (Activated them).

- In most churches we have only be taught... we have not seen a model and we have never been activated in ministry

The third Module is called My Ministry Life

1) **We all have a calling into ministry. Collectively we carry on the ministry of Jesus.**

- a) If you are a new believer, you are a beginner. Here's my charge to you... tell your story. Give people your Testimony. Be bold! *This is what God is doing in my life....*
- b) If you have been serving God longer than 6 months to a year... by now you ought to be able to identify your ministry... your calling.

2) How do I find my Ministry?

- a) In the Journey Discipleship Experience that is our goal
- b) Your ministry calling will be somewhere close to the sweet spot where your Passion, Experience and Giftings intersect.

**New slide:**

- i) Passion
- ii) Experience
- iii) Giftings

My Example: Called to be a pastor/teacher

**Passion:** When I got saved I quickly a passion for the Bible!

**Experience:** When began to read the Bible my heart was stirred. Sometimes, I would read verses and just start weeping for joy.

Ex: Romans 5:7,8 NIV Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

I carried it wherever I went. (I brought it to school, I had one in my football locker at the gym, there was always a bible in my car)

**Giftings:** I wasn't a very good teacher because I was extremely shy, but I knew in my know that God wanted to train me so that I could equip people.

The Discipline of Discipleship!

A disciple is a person who is learning to live the life **Jesus lived** and with his life, he is helping others do the same.

**You can sign up now if you want to commit a year to the discipline of discipleship!**