



COMMITTED – COMMIT TO DISCIPLESHIP

Community Group Study Guide: Matthew 4:17-22 – Week of February 12, 2023

Being a Disciple requires a change of:

1. Direction & Identity (Follow Me)

Like the men in our passage, all of us have established identities that we have created for ourselves. But when Christ comes and calls us, He replaces our old identity with a new one. We are called to repent from our old self, and submit ourselves fully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ as our King. This new identity requires a similar change of direction. As Christians, we are now slaves to righteousness. The commands from our Master are to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. This submission to Christ is not limited... We are called to sacrifice whatever He ask. We can no longer cling to the things of the world, but must lay them aside so that we can run the race that Christ has set before us. Count the cost, renounce what we have, and follow Jesus as His disciple.

2. Heart & Behavior (And I will make you)

Being a disciple means to be a student of a teacher; to be under the leader's discipline. As Christians, Christ is our teacher, and we are called to be His disciples. Like the twelve described in scripture, we are to follow and imitate Christ. While we do not physically follow Christ, we follow Him in spirit. Furthermore, being a disciple of Jesus means that we live in fellowship with other disciples who likewise are following Him. Our aim is to live in the presence of Christ, abiding in His Spirit, pursuing a greater love and knowledge of God. Disciples of Christ need to follow Jesus personally, and they cannot follow Him privately. We must each take charge of following Christ at a personal level, cultivating our own salvation with fear and trembling. There is only one teacher, one rabbi, and we must pursue Him alone. The temptation we must avoid is to begin making others around us the aim of our pursuit. We do have a responsibility to help build one another up in the

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

As Christians, we are called by Christ to follow Him. We are to submit ourselves to His discipline, as we strive to become more like our teacher. This is a daily lifelong process; in we grow in our dependance and likeness of Christ.

Heart

We should look at discipleship not as investment in the eternal kingdom of God, not simply as a cost to us. God will faithfully reward those who sacrificially follow Him.

Hands

We should view lives as a continuous process of discipleship. This means growing spiritually, and depending more and more on Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members Meeting
February 19 @ 1 pm

faith, however the goal is for all of us to become more dependent on Jesus, and less dependent on our brothers and sisters. While for a season we can and should help grow one another, we must consistently strive to be building ourselves on the foundation of Christ. While we do have personal independence in our faith, it does not mean that our discipleship can be simply a private matter. Throughout the Gospels, we rarely see that those who follow Christ did so alone. The majority of Christ's time on earth was spent in community, and was not spent privately. God has designed us to live in fellowship with other believers as all of us pursue the discipleship of Christ.

3. Purpose & Perspective (Fishers of Men)

Jesus has called us to a new purpose, and with that change of purpose we have a corresponding change in perspective. We now are no longer seeking our own kingdom, but now seek the kingdom of heaven. As Jesus reminded us earlier, the cost of following the kingdom can be steep. However, we must also look at that cost with an eternal kingdom perspective. Because of what Christ has done, our sacrifices for the sake of His kingdom are now unperishable investments. He promises to repay anything that is given for His kingdom one hundred times over. This changes how we look at the challenge of discipleship... that it is not a price to be paid, but an investment to be made. This heavenly perspective should fuel our heavenly purpose that we have been given.

Ingredients for Spiritual Growth:

1. The Truth of God's Word
2. The Power of the Holy Spirit
3. The Fellowship of the Church
4. The Experiences of Life

Read Matthew 4:17-22

1. What is discipleship? What is its goal, or how is it accomplished?
2. Reflecting on your past, what ways has God shown His grace in your life? Who help lead you to Christ? Who has help you grow in your faith?
3. Discipleship is an ongoing lifelong process. What habits have encouraged the growth in your faith? What challenges have you faced in that growth process, and what helped you over come those challenges?
4. **Read Matthew 16:24-28** Jesus commands us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. What have you given up for the Gospel? What are you currently being called to give up to follow Christ?
5. Pastor Shane asserted that “disciples need to follow Jesus personally.” What is meant by this statement? How has this changed your understanding of discipleship?
6. How do we become independently dependent? What does that look like? What is the purpose of this mindset?
7. Thinking about the ingredients for spiritual growth, which ones have you found yourself lacking in? How might you improve in that area of need?
8. How do you preach to your own heart when considering the cost of following Christ? Why is it so important to have an eternal perspective when enduring the cost?