

Discipleship & Baptism

Key Scripture

Luke 9:23–27

And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

26 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

27 But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

Disciple

- **Luke 9:23 (NIV): “Whoever wants to be my disciple...”**
- **A disciple is an active learner and devoted follower who:**
 - **Trusts Jesus**
 - **Obeys His teachings**
 - **Imitates His way of life**
- **Greek: mathētēs = pupil or apprentice**

Matthew 4:19

- “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- Follow = Imitate
- I will make = Changed by Jesus
- Fishers of men = Joining the mission

Following Jesus

Luke 9:57–60

“As they were going along the road, someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’

To another he said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’

Following Jesus

Luke 9:61–62

“Yet another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’

Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’”

Luke 14:33

“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

Following Jesus Costs Everything

- Following Jesus costs us everything.
- Luke 9:24:
 - “...whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”
 - It costs everything, but you have everything to gain as well!

Baptism

- The concept of Baptism comes from three Old Testament water events:
- The Global Flood
- The Red Sea Crossing
- The Jordan River Crossing

The Global Flood Event

1 Peter 3:20–21

“...when God's patience waited in the days of Noah... Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

The Red Sea Crossing

1 Corinthians 10:1–2

“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”

Crossing the Jordan River

Luke 3:2–3

“The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”

Christian Baptism

- **Christian Baptism applies these biblical pictures through faith in Jesus Christ.**
- **Symbolism:**
 - **Death of the old life**
 - **Birth of a new life**
 - **Following Jesus requires the death of your old life.**
 - **Christ provides new life.**

Who Should Be Baptized?

- **Everyone who has made an intentional decision to follow Jesus Christ AND is physically able to be submerged in water.**

Baptism Service