

GOD the SON

Are You a True Disciple?

John 1:35-51

Pastor Jason Dennett's Teaching Notes

- In this section of text, we see the word **"disciple"** used for the first time in the Gospel of John.
 - *"Again, the next day, John stood with two of his **disciples**. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two **disciples** heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.*
- Not only that, but we also see numerous references to the the process of discipleship until the end of this chapter...
- **"disciple"** is the Ancient Greek word **μαθητής** or **"mathētēs"**, and is used over 270x in the New Testament (while "Christian" is used only 3x). This word means **"a student, a pupil, a learner, an apprentice, a dedicated life-long follower of a teacher."**
 - *"When Jesus walked among humankind, there was a certain simplicity to being a disciple. Primarily it meant to go with Jesus, in an attitude of study, obedience, and imitation." - Dallas Willard*
 - *Gar Ryness never thought he would be famous. It all started as a prank video shot in his backyard where he began imitating famous batting stances of Major League Baseball players with a Whiffle ball bat. A year and a couple of million YouTube video hits later, he was on the David Letterman Show doing his imitations. Ryness said, "The whole thing is just so ridiculous. I'm still not believing the hype... I have the least marketable skill in America." Now he is known as "the batting stance guy" and has become a phenomenon among baseball fans and players alike. After all, they say that **IMITATION** is the sincerest form of flattery. As **DISCIPLES**, we are to be **IMITATORS** of Jesus Christ.*
 - **Eph 5:1-2NLT** - *"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ."*
- To be a **BIBLICAL DISCIPLE** (not cultural, commercial, liberal), means to to live a **LIFESTYLE** of following Jesus as the Master of your life, to seek to submit to Him and please Him in all areas of your living. It means to live for His Kingdom agenda (not your own), and seek to live out His will for your life (not your own).
 - **QUESTION:** "Are **you** a true **DISCIPLE**... or simply a **Christian**?"

- I. The **INVITATION** for Discipleship (v.35-39)
- II. The **TRANSFORMATION** in Discipleship (v.40-42)
- III. The **MULTIPLICATION** of Discipleship (v.43-46)
- IV. The **REVELATION** thru Discipleship (v.47-51)

I. The **INVITATION** for Discipleship (v.35-39) - *"Again, the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following, said to them, "What do you seek?" They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour)."*

- **We receive many kinds of "invitations" throughout the course of our lives...**
 - **UNIVERSITY**..to walk the path to education, learning, and enlightenment.

- **MARRIAGE**..to enter the life of relationship, love, and commitment.
- **MILITARY & LAW ENFORCEMENT**.. to enter the realm of duty, service, and sacrifice.
- **SALVATION**... to enter a saving relationship thru the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- **DISCIPLESHIP???** ... to enter a life-long commitment to **submitting** to Jesus in my private life, **servng** Jesus with my time and energy, and **obeyng** Jesus in the areas daily living.
- **Living as a TRUE DISCIPLE begins a with an INVITATION:**
 - They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him
 - “A disciple is someone who follows Jesus Christ as a life-long devotion. But just because we’re Christians, does not necessarily mean we are His disciples, even if we are members of His Kingdom. In recent centuries, we’ve been hearing another kind of gospel: a man-centered, human gospel. The gospel of the “hot sale”. The gospel of the “irresistible deal.” But all Jesus says to us is, “Follow Me.” He doesn’t say where we’ll go, what will happen, or how much He’ll pay us. He just gives us the command and the invitation.” - Pastor Juan Carlos Ortiz
- **Every believer should become a DISCIPLE.** No matter what brand of Christian you are, or Christianity you’ve been brought up with, every believer should become a **DISCIPLE**, and specifically a **DISCIPLE OF JESUS!**
 - 1 Cor 1:10-13NLT - “Let there be **no divisions** in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose... 12 Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of **Paul**.” Others are saying, “I follow **Apollos**,” or “I follow **Peter**,” or “I follow only **Christ**.” Has Christ been divided into factions?
- **One of the healthiest transitions in the life of a believer**, is instead of seeing yourself as a follower of Calvin, Luther, Wesley, Chuck Smith, David Jeremiah, John MacArthur, is for you see yourself as a **DISCIPLE** of **JESUS CHRIST**. Gifted men and gifted bible teachers are wonderful, but they are simply instruments to point the way to the Master, Jesus Christ!!
- **Jesus described BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP very clearly and powerfully:**
 - Lk 9:23-24-“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross daily**, and **follow Me**. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever **loses his life for My sake** will save it.”
 - - **3 Commands:** 1. **Lay** Down (Life) 2. **Lift** Up (Cross) 3. **Led** By (Christ)
 - **Hiroo Onoda was a lieutenant in the Japanese army stationed on the Philippine island of Lubang during World War II.** When his commander left the island, he ordered Onoda to stay and fight. “It may take three years, it may take five, but whatever happens we’ll come back for you,” he had said. Little did they know that Lt. Onoda would faithfully carried out those orders for the next 29 years.
 - **After the war was officially over, the Japanese government dropped leaflets to persuade him to come out of hiding** but Onoda dismissed them as propaganda from his enemies. Lt. Onoda was even declared dead in 1959.
 - **It wasn’t until 15 years later, in 1974 that his fate would change, when he encountered a young man named Norio Suzuki, a Japanese student who had gone in search of the missing lieutenant.** Suzuki could not convince Onoda—who insisted he was still awaiting his orders—to come out of hiding. Suzuki left, but soon returned with a delegation that included Lt. Onoda’s brother and his former army commander, who formally relieved the dedicated soldier of his duty.

- *When it was all said and done, Lt. Onada had faithfully served his commander, by staying at his post for almost 30 years, refusing to surrender, quit, or give up.*
- *This is a great model for the Christian disciple - we must continue to faithfully serve our Lord, until He returns to relieve us of our duty, and call us home. As spiritual soldiers, we too are called to “fight a good fight, finish our race, and guard the faith..” and never quit. This is what it means to be a true disciple.*
- *”To be a biblical ‘disciple’ means to completely entrust your life into the hands of Jesus. A disciple is one who allows his will to be swallowed up by the will of the Master.”*

○ **QUESTION:** “Are you a true DISCIPLE... or simply a Christian?”