

FOLLOW ME: THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE - Introduction

Icebreaker: Who or what do you follow in teaching, news, education, social media, etc...? How does that affect your life whether positive or negative?

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (M. 16:24)

What is a disciple? Based on the Greek words below, how would you define discipleship in your own words?

- **'akoloutheo' (follower)** – “‘Come follow me,’ Jesus said...” (Mark 1:17a)
- **'mathetes' (learner, student)** – “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me...” (Matt. 11:29a)
- **'mimetes' (imitator)** – “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” (Heb. 13:7)

What is discipleship?

He appointed twelve – designating them apostles – that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons. (Mark 3:14-15)

- **Be with and become like Jesus** – “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Cor. 3:18)

☞ **Spiritual faithfulness is about relationship, not just accomplishment** – “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17:3)

- **Go out and engage with Jesus** – “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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matt. 28:19-20)

☞ **Spiritual fruitfulness is about investment, not just content** – “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice...” (Phil. 4:9a)

Read the content under the *what is discipleship* section above. Which of the two bullets, *Be with and become like Jesus* or *Go out and engage with Jesus*, are you better at. Which of the two needs improvement and how do you envision that happening?

☛ **The Great Decommission: The commandment intended for obedience and adventure has often been met with negligence and apathy** – “We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.” (Heb. 5:11)

- **(Be a disciple) Am I a fan or a follower?** – “From this time many of His disciples turned back and no longer followed Him. ‘You do not want to leave too, do you?’ Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’” (John 6:66-69) **In what ways or scenarios of your life resemble a fan, what resembles a follower of Christ?**
- **(Make a disciple) Am I a consumer or a contributor?** – “In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word

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all over again.” (Heb. 5:12) In what ways or scenarios of your life do you consume Christianity? In what ways do you contribute to the work God has called us to?

Which aspects of this study needs the most attention in your personal Christian life? Pray about that and ask the Lord to reveal some practical ways to help in those areas.