

# Sermon Notes - July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

“Jesus is Worth Following – Growing Disciples”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

Rick Shepherd, Guest Speaker

---

## A Disciple is Someone with...

- A New Identity WITH Jesus Christ
- A New Direction FROM Jesus Christ
- A New Testimony of being saved BY Jesus Christ
- A New Relationship TOWARD Jesus Christ
- A New Worship and Obedience OF Jesus Christ

## I. Jesus IN Me—“teaching to observe”

- A. All Kinds of Ways to Teach—Setting Up Life—All-Instructing (“teaching”)
- B. All Kinds of Ways to Learn—Staying Attentive in Life—All-In-Step (“to observe”)

## II. Jesus THROUGH Me—All-Instruction (“All I commanded you”)

- A. Relation to God
- B. Relation to Self
- C. Relation to Others
- D. Relation to Time/Eternity

## III. Jesus WITH Me—“Lo, I am with you always...”

- A. The Whole Picture—All-Insight (“Lo” or “Behold”)
- B. The Whole Way—All-Immanent (“I am with you”)
- C. The Whole Time—All-Enduring (“always”—“all the days”)

## IV. Jesus FOR Me

- A. *Remember Me*—broken “for you” and “until”—1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- B. *Rejoice in Me*—John 14:1-3
  - 1. I’m Coming “for you”—John 14:1-3
  - 2. I’m Planning Forever “with” Me—1 Thessalonians 4:17

## Making and Growing Disciples:

1. Being a Mature Disciple is God’s Heart from the Start.
2. Being a Disciple Begins at the New Birth but doesn’t stop there.
3. One can be a Growing Disciple or a Stifled Disciple.
4. All 66 Books of the Bible Matter (OT and NT).
5. Being “glorified” in the Presence of the Lord Jesus is God’s Goal.

One Commandment—“do this in Remembrance of Me”—LORD’S SUPPER

## Spiritual Vitamins and Minerals for Growing Healthy Disciples

In Acts 6, the early church leaders gave three characteristics of a spiritually mature servant: 1) a good reputation, 2) full of the Holy Spirit, 3) full of wisdom (Acts 6:3). Add to that the two priorities of the early church, 1) times in prayer and 2) times in the ministry of serving of the Word, and one sees **five** essentials for a “disciple” (there are more). What does this mean? Since Jesus made clear that a “disciple” is one who is a follower of Jesus and learner from Jesus, it is vital to identify with Him in every way and learn from Him every day. We can delineate **Ten Essentials for a Disciple**.

1. A True **Knowledge** of Jesus Christ as one’s personal Lord and Savior. This person has been convicted of personal sin and repented (turned around and is continually turning away from anything God says is not right). Paul spoke of “**repentance toward God**” and about “**faith in our Lord Jesus Christ**” (Acts 20:20). This man, woman, boy, or girl has believed Jesus actually lived a sinless life and died a perfect death on the Cross for his or her sins. Because of these realities, this person has called on the Lord to save him or her, forgive of all sins, and has received Jesus into his or her life as Lord and Savior.
2. An **Identification** of all of oneself (spirit, soul, and body) with all of Who God Is—The Father, The Son Christ Jesus, and The Holy Spirit. That is seen in the external symbol of water baptism by immersion and then expressed in daily dependence on Him for life, spiritual power, wisdom, and clear direction.
3. Growing in **Love for God** in every dimension—all one’s heart, soul, strength, and mind. This means getting to know God better and better and loving Him more and more at every age or stage of life.
4. Growing in **Love for People** in every dimension—personally, with discernment (not naïve), and seeking what is beneficial (God’s Best) for others, believers and unbelievers. There are over 80 “one another” commands in Scripture with numerous practical examples, warnings, and helpful ways to pray and act in love.
5. **Being part** of a growing **body of believers in a local gathering** so that one is regularly encouraged by others and encourages others in matters of knowing and walking with God.
6. A **Growing** understanding of and obedience to **God’s Word** day by day, year by year. This is a life-long journey for a Life-Long Learner and one living out what he or she is learning (a life of obedience, growth, and maturity).
7. A life of **Prayer—personal prayer first**, learning what it means to talk to God and listen to Him through His Word, through His Spirit, through other believers, and through various avenues God brings along one’s path day by day. Included in a life of Prayer are **times of prayer with others**.
8. **Sharing** Who **Jesus is**, What He has **said** (His Word), What He has **done** (providing full forgiveness and salvation for any believing heart) and What He is **doing** (saving, forgiving, changing, leading in daily life, preparing for Eternity with Him as part of His Family).
9. **Living a life** before others that is without blame (nothing to grab on to, blame, or degrade), loving, helpful, wise—having a good reputation with others in the day-to-day world.
10. **Walking in the Fullness of the Holy Spirit** day by day, in every venue, at home, at school, on the job, in the community, as well as in church gatherings (personal interactions, small groups, large groups).

There are obviously many more practical truths to learn and apply in one’s relationship with God and others. This applies to all of life, whatever stage of life (childhood, youth, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and beyond). Life is never divided into “spiritual” and “secular”—everything matters to God, from buying a small snack to making a large purchase, from giving a “cup” of water in Jesus’ name to being kind and helpful in thousands of ways to any one person or to any number of people—through speaking and/or serving.

### How Does One Disciple Others? (Seven practical suggestions) ...

1. Continue to **grow as a “disciple,”** with personal **time** in **Prayer** and in the **Word**.
2. Making “disciples” can occur **Anywhere** and **Anytime**, including creative ways along the way.
3. Have a **Plan**—The When, Where, What. **Follow** the Plan **AND** be **flexible**.
4. **Meet with** another(s) (where? when?). **Talk** together (what?). **Pray** together. **Scripture** together.
5. **Don’t be locked** into having to have a “church building” or “church schedule.”
6. **Short conversations, lengthy meetings, readings, etc.**—some or all—can be part of the **process**.
7. Look for **ways along the way** to learn, impart, or receive practical truths from **Scripture** and from **time with God**. Be ready to share what God is showing **you**, how God is guiding **you**, etc.