



CLOSE TO CHRIST

September 28, 2025 – Luke Johnston

Today we will examine the different types of disciples we see in the Bible. Though there are many disciples, each one chooses how close they will be to Jesus, and each experiences a different level of intimacy with Him. We would all say we want to be close to Christ, but the truth is that not all of us are willing to do what it takes to make that happen. By the end of today's lesson, it will be clear what it means to be a disciple who is not merely following Jesus, but _____ to Him than the rest.

1) There are different levels of closeness to Jesus amongst his disciples:

a) The _____

- i) They will be fed the word of God. Mark 6:34; 4:1-2; Luke 5:1; Matt. 13:1-3.
- ii) They will experience miracles. Matt. 12:15; 14:14; 15:30.
- iii) They enjoy the benefits of following Jesus. John 6:26.
- iv) They will walk away when things are tough. John 6:51-66.

b) The _____

- i) They will be involved in the work of the Lord. They will share his message and labor for him. Luke 10:1.
- ii) They will do miracles, not just experience them. Luke 10:17.
- iii) They will be entrusted with more than the "multitudes." Romans 16:7.
- iv) While they truly desired to serve the Lord, they are seemingly not willing to do it once it costs them too much.

c) The _____

- i) They are given power to preach and do miracles on Jesus' behalf. Luke 9:1-2; Matt. 10:1, 7-8; Mark 3:13-15; Mark. 6:7, 12-13.
- ii) They are given special authority and power in eternity future for their service to God in this life. Matt. 19:28; Luke 22:28-30.
- iii) They are shown some special things by God that the multitudes and the seventy will never be shown. God reveals special truths to them. Matt. 13:10-11; Mark 4:33-34.
- iv) When things get tough, though they may falter for a time, ultimately, they trust in God and pray, they don't run. Acts 1:13-14.
- v) They do great things with an eternal impact for the Lord and will impact multitudes (Matthew, John, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 & 2 & 3 John, Jude, Revelation).
- vi) A small part of these 12 can be imposters and traitors. Matt. 26:47; Mark 14:10.

d) The _____

- i) They will see the true full power and glory of Jesus in ways that nobody else will. Matt. 17:1-9.
- ii) Jesus depends on them and desires to have them near to him. Matt. 26:36-38; Mk. 14:33-34.
- iii) They will see amazing miracles that even the other 12 will never see. Luke 8:49-56; Mark. 5:37-43.

e) The _____

- i) They are so close to Jesus they KNOW they would never betray him; they have no doubt. John 13:23-25; Matt. 26:22.
- ii) They will never walk away from Jesus. At risk of their life, they will be with him all the way to the end, even when everyone else is gone. John 19:26.
- iii) God will show them unimaginable, amazing things that others will never understand. He reveals all truth to them and holds nothing back. Rev. 1:9-11; 10:4.

As we have seen today, there are many different levels to how closely we can walk with God. All these people we have examined today were true disciples of Jesus, but not all disciples are the same. We can be as close to God as we desire to be, all we must do is make the choices that will make that possible. These are not easy choices but are well worth the amazing life that awaits when you are _____
_____ disciple among many disciples of Jesus Christ.

James 4:8 - "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you..."