

## **Biblical Foundations of Discipleship: Learning from the Master**

Discipleship is not a new concept. Even though many churches do not yet give real focus to the discipleship process, discipleship itself is as old as Christianity. This is because Jesus made discipleship a central feature of his ministry. He took twelve men and poured his life into them so that they would be able to continue his ministry once Jesus had returned to be with his father. Given Jesus commitment to discipleship it is natural that we look to his example and try to emulate him. In this session we want to study his discipleship ministry which is described for us in the Gospels. We will see from the gospels why Jesus did discipleship, how he discipled the twelve and we will explore the content of his discipleship curriculum. This will give us a firm biblical foundation for our disciple making today as we learn from the Master.

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1. Jesus called 'follow me.'
2. Jesus challenged (Matthew 6:24): No one can serve two masters.
3. Jesus promised a helper (John 14:16).
  - Sanctification (1 Peter 1:2)
  - Litmus test (Galatians 5:22,23): Qualities seen perfectly in Christ
  - Service: Spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:11)
4. Jesus specified that they were to 'make disciples' Matthew 28:18,19.
5. Organisation
  - Larger crowd 120

- Choose 12 particular focus & carry weight
- Chose 3 more detailed work
- At times poured himself into 1 individual [Peter, John 20]

## 6. Clear discipleship

- Teaching: Huge corpus Matthew 5-7:
  - importance character fallen world
  - lifestyle
  - relationship sp. Life to religious ritual
  - violence
  - divorce & sexual conduct
  - integrity
  - conflict resolution
  - social justice
  - prayer & discipline
  - ambitions & motivations
  - stress management
  - how get true perspective other spiritual trends
  - wisdom
- Lifestyle: Jesus lived with them – they saw how he lived.
- Relationship: Intimacy – comment ‘disciple who Jesus loved.’
- Prayer: Stemmed from Jesus example, ‘teach us to pray.’
- Worship: Disciples grew in their appreciation of God by being with Jesus.
- Mission: Jesus sent disciples out, but not before he took them with him.

As we think of discipleship today these components should be present – knowledge, skill, character.

Questions:

1. To what extent is our church encouraging every member to reach excellence in each of these areas?
2. What are our biggest deficiencies and what practical steps can we take to change weakness to strength?

## Cultural Change

- Formal > Relational
- Cerebral > Emotional
- Accepting > Questioning