

# Discipleship

## Introduction:

Before our spiritual forefathers were called Christians, they were simply referred to as disciples. Even after they were labeled as Christians at Antioch, they still called themselves disciples. Most people are quick to call themselves Christians, but not too many people think of themselves as disciples. The word, *Christian*, is found only three times in the Bible, while the word, *disciple* or *disciples*, is found 273 times. The Bible places much emphasis on being a disciple of Christ. Those who have believed on Jesus Christ for salvation ought to be disciples of Christ, and ought to be active in getting others to become disciples of Christ.

**Let's look at what the Bible teaches about discipleship. Our lesson will answer the following questions:**

- I. What is a disciple of Christ?
- II. What does a disciple of Christ do?
- III. What is the cost of being a disciple of Christ?

## I. What is a disciple of Christ?

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The Greek word from which we get the English word “disciple” is “mathetes” (pronounced math-ay-tes’). This word means a learner or a student. Let's look at some Bible verses and find out what a disciple of Christ is.

### 1. Matthew 13:36

In this verse, Jesus' disciples asked Him to \_\_\_\_\_ or teach them the meaning of the parable He had told. They wanted to learn from Jesus.

### 2. Matthew 24:3

Here we see Jesus' disciples coming to Him privately to ask Him a \_\_\_\_\_. They wanted Jesus to teach them about the end of the world.

### 3. Luke 11:1

Jesus' disciples asked Jesus to teach them to \_\_\_\_\_.

**In Conclusion :** Simply stated, a disciple of Christ is one who seeks to learn from Jesus, and looks to Christ as his Teacher. A disciple of Christ is one who wants to learn His teachings and be like our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **II. What does a disciple of Christ do?**

Let's look to the Bible to see what a disciple of Christ does.

### 1. Matthew 8:22-23

When Jesus entered into the ship, His disciples \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

### Mark 6:1

Who followed Jesus into His own country? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 22:39**

Jesus' disciples followed Him to the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**John 1:37**

What did the two disciples do when they heard Jesus speak? \_\_\_\_\_

In the 4 verses we examined, what did the disciples of Christ do? **They \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.**

**2. Matthew 17:19**

Who came to Jesus in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark 8:10**

Jesus entered into a \_\_\_\_\_ with His \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 7:11**

Many of Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ went with Him to the city of Nain.

**John 3:22**

\_\_\_\_\_ and His disciples came into the land of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and tarried there.

Who was with Jesus in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

In reading and studying the Gospels we see that **Jesus' disciples spent much time with Him.**

### 3. John 15:1-8

In these verses, Jesus compares Himself to a \_\_\_\_\_, and His disciples to the \_\_\_\_\_. As long as a branch is connected to the vine, it has life. A natural by-product of being connected to the vine is that the branch is able to bear fruit. If we abide in Christ (stay connected to Him through Bible study and prayer), we will be able to bear fruit for Him. When we bear fruit for Christ, we are giving evidence that we are truly His disciples. *“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”* (John 15:8)

ILLUSTRATION: The fruit of an orange tree is oranges. The fruit of a banana tree is bananas. They produce after their kind. The fruit of a disciple of Christ is other disciples of Christ. **A true disciple of Christ makes other disciples of Christ.**

#### **In Conclusion:**

1. A disciple of Christ follows Christ.
2. A disciple of Christ spends time with Christ.
3. A disciple of Christ is connected to Christ and makes other disciples of Christ.

### **III. What is the cost of being a disciple of Christ?**

To be a disciple of Christ is a high calling. A disciple of Christ is a student of the greatest Teacher Who ever lived. A disciple of Christ is a follower of the greatest Leader Who

ever lived. However, there is a price to be paid as a disciple of Christ.

## **1. Mark 8:34, Luke 14:25-26**

In these verses Jesus is making it clear that those who want to be His disciples will be asked to deny themselves. Doing God's will and fulfilling God's desires must take first place in the life of His disciples. They will be asked to have a commitment and love for Christ that is greater than their commitment and love for anyone or anything else. A disciple of Christ will be asked to give up his own will and seek to do God's will.

## **2. Luke 14:27**

This verse goes right along with Mark 8:34, which we already looked at. Jesus is telling us that there is a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ that His disciples must bear. As we follow Christ, trials, burdens, and difficulties will come our way. Each disciple has a cross to bear if he is going to continue to be Christ's disciple. We must not shy away from these burdens; rather, we should embrace them.

EXAMPLE: The apostle Paul was used of God in a great way. He was a mighty disciple of Christ. In II Corinthians 12:7 we find that Paul was given a thorn in the flesh. This was a burden to Paul and he asked God three times to take it away. God's reply was, "*My grace is sufficient for thee.*" Paul realized that this was a cross that God wanted him to bear, and he said, "*Most gladly*

*therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*" Paul accepted and embraced the cross he was called to bear. As disciples of Christ, we must take up our cross (burdens) and follow Him.

### 3. Luke 14:33

A disciple of Christ will be asked to \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ all that he has. We must forsake anything in our life that God wants us to forsake. This could be a certain career, a plan to become wealthy, a plan to be famous, certain pleasures, or a desire to live a life of ease.

EXAMPLE: In Matthew 4:18-22 we find the record of Jesus calling Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him. These men were fishermen. They left their job to follow Jesus. We all must give up something to be Christ's disciples. We should not have things in our life that we are unwilling to give up for Christ.

A disciple of Christ must forsake all that would hinder him from wholly following Christ.

**In Conclusion:** There is a cost to being a disciple of Christ. It is not easy. **A disciple of Christ must be committed.** A disciple of Christ will be asked to:

1. Deny himself

2. Bear his cross
3. Forsake all that he has

The price to pay in order to be Christ's disciple is well worth it. The blessings and rewards of being Christ's disciple are so abundant that the cost becomes insignificant. The apostle Paul realized this truth and stated in Philippians 3:8, "*Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*" The things we give up are but waste when placed next to gaining the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is worthy of our commitment, devotion, sacrifice, and service.

## **Review - Discipleship**

### **I. What is a disciple of Christ?**

- A. The Greek word for disciple means a learner or a \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. A disciple of Christ is one who seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ His teachings and to be \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **II. What does a disciple of Christ do?**

- A. A disciple of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.
- B. A disciple of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.
- C. A disciple of Christ makes other \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

### III. What is the cost of being a disciple of Christ?

A. A disciple of Christ will be asked to deny himself.

What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. A disciple of Christ will be asked to bear his cross.

What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. What must a disciple of Christ be willing to forsake?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment:** Choose at least 2 of the following verses, memorize them, and say them to your teacher.

- Mark 8:34
- Luke 14:33
- Luke 14:27
- John 15:8

**Application:** What will you do based on the truth you learned in this lesson?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_