

Discipleship

Discipleship has its roots in the Jewish culture in which Jesus was raised. Followers of rabbis (teachers) were called their disciples. Rabbis had vast knowledge of the scriptures and also showed by their example how to live them out. A disciple's goal was to follow his rabbi and gain his knowledge, as well as to take on his purpose and character. After their training, disciples went out and made disciples of their own. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is a call to build the Kingdom of God in this way, teaching and showing others how to live as disciples of Jesus.

Opening question: In one sentence, how would you describe what it means to be a Christian?

Acts 11:26

- Is there a difference between being a Christian and being a disciple?

Luke 6:40

- What is the goal of being a Christian/disciple of Jesus?

What mark of being a disciple of Jesus is mentioned in each of these 6 passages?

- **John 13:34-35**
- **John 8:31**
- **John 15:8**
- **Luke 14:25-27** (the word "hate" has a specific meaning here – what do you think it is?)
- **Matthew 28:18-20**
- **1 John 2:6**

To what extent do the above qualities describe your life?

Luke 14:28-30

- What is the principle from this passage that Jesus wants us to know about following him?

Luke 9:23-26

- What was carrying a cross associated with in Jesus' day?
- What does this say about what followers of Jesus must be willing to do?

John 10:10

- What benefit of being a disciple of Jesus is mentioned here? What does this mean?
- How does your life currently compare with such a life?

John 10:27-28

- What benefit of being a disciple of Jesus is mentioned here? What does this mean?

Reflection: Has your understanding of what it means to be a Christian changed after this study? If so how?

To what extent does your life currently line up with the life of a disciple?

FURTHER STUDY

Mark 1:14-39. How would you summarise Jesus' priorities from this snapshot of his life?

Mark 10:45; Matthew 20:24-28. Being a disciple of Jesus means taking on a life of serving others rather than ourselves. What about this is most challenging for you?

Luke 19:10. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and his disciples share this purpose – how would your life change if this was a priority for you?

Matthew 7:21-23. Not everyone who thinks of themselves as religious will be known by Jesus. Who will be known by Jesus and who will he count as his disciples?