Let's Talk About: Discipleship

A disciple is one who follows the teachings of another.

What do you think it means to be a disciple of Jesus?

Called to Make Disciples

Read Matthew 28:19-20, often referred to as "The Great Commission."

What does Jesus command us to do?

We are called to make disciples, but making someone else a disciple starts with us being disciples ourselves. To be a disciple of Jesus, we must know and understand the teachings Jesus taught. During these two weeks, you will work to crystallize your understanding of who Jesus is and how you should view yourself in relation to Jesus. Even if you have not taken those classes yet, understanding what it means to be a disciple and how to disciple others will help you to understand who Jesus is and how you should live your life.

Being a Disciple

Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ right now?

If you are His follower, then you are already disciple. Simply by being a follower you have automatically become a disciple, someone learning to follow in the ways of Jesus.

Disciples Follow

An important thing to remember is that the original twelve men who followed Jesus were not the only disciples. Everyone following Jesus is a disciple

In Matthew 16:24, Jesus told his disciples, "**Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.**'"

Part of following Jesus is to set aside your ways and commit yourself to the His teachings. This point will be discussed in greater detail in each of the next two sections. However, consider what you must give up to follow Jesus. What are some things you need to give up in your life?

One of the biggest things to consider is that to follow someone, you must believe that that person is "ahead" of you. They are the leader you will follow. You will submit to their authority. Have you submitted to Jesus as King and Lord?

Why is it important for you to do this?

This is one of the most important things you can do. If you acknowledge that Jesus and His ways are above yours, then you are already on your way to becoming a great disciple!

© 2026 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved

Disciples Change

One of the reasons why someone follows another is because he or she believes that person has something special. That the leader has a way that is better than the path that their disciples had before. What does Jesus offer you?

One of the things He offers is the transformation that comes in following Him. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that anyone who has Christ living in him or her has become a "new creation." The guilt, shame, frustrations, and bitterness of the past are swept away. Do you feel God cleansing you of your shame and bitterness?

Disciples are also transformed in their thinking. Romans 12:2 tells us, "**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind**…" We are to think differently and desire different things when we follow Jesus. This is what Jesus meant when he told us to deny ourselves and pick up our crosses. We must be willing to change the way we think and to let go of the things of the past. To cast off anything that would stop us from following Jesus.

What things do you need to transform in your thinking?

It is important to realize that if you are going to disciple others, then you must remove obstacles that would stop you from following Him with all your heart. You mentioned some things in your thinking that need to be transformed. How are those things stopping you from discipling others?

Disciples Want What Jesus Wants

We began this lesson by reading Matthew 28:19-20. This is the mission of God, to make disciples of all nations. Are you committed to God's mission?

How equipped are you to help disciple others?

What are things you need to do to make you a better disciple? Could you create a plan to help you accomplish this?

Tying All Three Together

One of the best passages that ties all of this together is found in Mark 1:17: "**And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.**'"

Jesus told them to follow Him. He told them that He would change them (make you become), and gave them a mission (be fishers of men).

Are you a "fisher of men?" Do you want to be?

Are you willing to learn to be a great disciple of Jesus so that you can disciple others?

Your Memory Verse: Mark 1:17 – **17 And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."**

© 2026 Dr. Robert Pannier, Hope CDA, All Rights Reserved