

L*esson*
20

Discipleship

“What is Discipleship and Its Importance In My Christian Life?”



There is no shortage of biblical materials in this world. Bibles, books, tapes, tracts and other resources are found in plentiful supply. If there is a missing ingredient, it is the process of biblical discipleship (i.e. a loving, caring, selfless Christian who is committed to teaching another” ...all things whatsoever I have commanded you”).

LESSON 20

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with the principles and importance of biblical discipleship. Revival, evangelism, discipleship and missions, energized by fervent prayer and done in a spirit of love, are the lifeblood of the Church.

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INTRODUCTION

As we come to this lesson, you may notice that we have attempted to do four things through this discipleship program.

1. Teach you the Word of God.
2. Establish you in the fellowship of believers.
3. Help you find your place in the structure of the Church.
4. Challenge you with the ministry of Christ.

In looking back we will see how we have grown together in our knowledge of the Word of God. We should have met some new people along the way that we can call our friends. We should have become a part of a church we can call “our church” and in these last lessons we should realize God wants us involved in ministering to others.

In looking forward, let these words of Paul to his disciple challenge us:

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” II Timothy 2:2

In this lesson we will be challenged with a ministry begun nearly 2000 years ago. That ministry is “discipleship” which is helping someone grow in the knowledge of God’s Word and in its application to life until he or she becomes a mature follower of Christ. A mature follower, in turn, helps another to grow in his or her Christian life.

This process is what “discipleship” is all about. It is a plan of reproduction and multiplication founded in the ministry of Christ. We can perform this ministry and be involved in helping another grow the same way our discipler helped us to grow.

Let’s study carefully the principles of this lesson and become familiar with the ministry of biblical discipleship.

THE COMMAND TO DISCIPLE

1. Look up Matthew 28:19-20 and write down the three things you are to do as you begin in this ministry.

2. What did Barnabas do for Paul after he had trusted Jesus Christ? Acts 11:22-26 _____

Acts 18:11 _____

3. What did Paul do with those who had trusted Christ as Savior? Acts 14:21-22

4. In II Timothy 2:2, how did Timothy learn about serving God?

Discipleship is the process in which someone who has already been taught helps a young Christian learn about the Christian life. Now that we have grown in knowledge, we have a responsibility to share that knowledge with someone else.

THE CONCEPT OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. In I Corinthians 11:1, what did Paul challenge these Christians to do?
2. Read Philippians 4:9. What did Paul say about his life to the Philippian Church?
3. What did Paul challenge Timothy to do in I Timothy 4:12?
4. What kind of example was Jesus according to Acts 1:1?
5. In Matthew 23:1-3, what was wrong with the example of the Pharisees?

There are two ingredients involved in being an example.

* Teaching that informs

* Living that demonstrates

Now that we have grown, we must consider the challenge of using our life to help another believer to grow. We can take what we have learned and use it to encourage another—that's discipleship.

THE BENEFITS OF DISCIPLESHIP

I Thessalonians relates Paul's ministry among the people of Thessalonica. Paul had the privilege of discipling most of these people and helping these believers grow in their faith. Let's look at the following questions and see some of the blessings that come from discipleship.

1. According to I Thessalonians 1:6, how did these people respond to Paul's example?
2. In I Thessalonians 1:7, what did these people become to the believers?
3. Based on I Thessalonians 2:7-8, what kind of relationship did Paul and the Thessalonians have?
4. From I Thessalonians 3:2, what happened to their faith through discipleship?
5. Read the remainder of I Thessalonians 3 and write down some of the things accomplished through discipleship.

THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is demanding! In Luke 14:25-35, Jesus identified what was necessary to be classified as “disciple of Jesus Christ.” Just as this was true when Jesus taught this to His disciples, it is true for us today. In fact, let’s look carefully at this passage and note how many times Jesus said,

“...he cannot be my disciple...”

In order to be a true disciple of Christ, we must understand and practice the “priorities” that enable one to be a “disciple.”

1. According to verse 25 of Luke 14, how many people were classified as “followers”?
2. Read carefully and write out verse 26.
3. Now meditate on the principle taught in this verse:

In order to be classified a disciple:

**CHRIST MUST COME FIRST IN ALL YOUR
RELATIONSHIPS.**

Discipleship—Discipleship

4. Consider the following questions:
 - a. Is there anyone you love more than Christ?
 - b. What place does Christ occupy in your life?
 - c. How much do you love Him?
 - d. How much time do you spend with Him in the course of a day?
5. Write out verse 27 of Luke 14.
6. Meditate carefully on this principle.

In order to be consider a disciple:

**CHRIST MUST COME FIRST IN ALL YOUR
RESPONSIBILITIES.**

7. Consider and answer the following questions:
 - a. Is there anything I consider more important than my work for Christ.
 - b. Does my ministry take precedence over my job?

- c. Would you set aside what Christ considers important for what you consider important?
 - d. In what way do your responsibilities for Christ take priority over all other things in your life.
8. Read carefully the remainder as Jesus elaborates on what He has just taught. Write down what you think Jesus is saying in these verses.

CONCLUSION

These are some basic ideas involved in discipleship. More than studying the lesson, we should reflect and see how we were disciplined.

List the things that were most important and influential as you were being disciplined. Remember these may also be important to your disciple.

Discipleship—Discipleship

Discipleship is God's way of providing the answers to our questions and seeing to it that we received instruction in the Bible.

Now it is our turn! We must take what we have learned and help someone else grow as we have grown.

Write down any questions you may have regarding this lesson.

Memory Verse ***II Timothy 2:2***



