



ACCM

Bible Study: Tuesday, May 5, 2020.

Topic: Discipleship Part I

TEXTS: Luke 14:25-33, John 6:60-69, Matt 28:19-20

As I began to study the word; 'disciple' my mind threw me into comparing the word "Christian" with the word "Disciple". I found that in the KJV of the Bible, the word 'disciples' occurred about 235 times and only once was it used in the Old Testament. The word disciple occurred about 7 times in the New Testament. On the other hand the words Christian or Christians were used 2 times each in the entire bible.

Jesus focused a lot on building His disciples. He indeed preached to everyone but from time to time he took His disciples aside and spent time with them. He invested a lot in His disciples and I believe He expects much from them also. He will speak to the people in parables but He will take time to speak to His disciples. When He was about to return to heaven, He spent quality time with them, talking to them and praying for them. I believe a lot of input is required to create a discipleship and so much is also required from a disciple. At the end of this study I hope we should be able to do a thorough examination of ourselves and find out if we are disciples or just believers

WHO IS A DISCIPLE?

The Cambridge dictionary defines a disciple as a person who believes in the ideas and principles of someone famous and tries to live the way that person does or did.

(<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/disciple>)

Miriam Webster says it is one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another. (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/disciple#other-words>)

In Christianity, disciple primarily refers to a dedicated follower of Jesus. This term is found in the New Testament only in the Gospels and Acts. In the ancient world, a disciple is a follower or adherent of a teacher. It is not the same as being a student in the modern

sense. A disciple in the ancient biblical world actively imitated both the life and teaching of the master. It was a deliberate apprenticeship which made the fully formed disciple a living copy of the master ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disciple_\(Christianity\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disciple_(Christianity)))

A disciple could be a male or a female according to the bible. The Greek word for disciple is mathetes, math-ay-tes' (a learner or an apprentice of another). The female equivalent is mathetria, math-ay'-tree-ah (A female learner) Acts 9:36.

Discussion:

1. **Is there a difference between a Christian and a Disciple?** Acts 6:1, Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, I Peter 4:16. John 1:12.

In modern scenario, do you think the Christian is a disciple?

2. Was Jesus' intention simply to produce Christians? John 3:16. Matt 28:19 KJV, Luke 14:26, Matt 10:37,
3. **Who is a disciple of Jesus?**
 - a) An ardent disciplined and obedient follower of the teaching of Jesus Christ. Matt 10:24-25, John 12:26, 13:35, I Pet. 2:21
 - b) He who loves Jesus above all else. Matt 6:24, 10:37, Luke 14:26 33(What is the meaning of these verses?)
 - c) Self-denying and cross bearing individual. Matt 16:24, (It is expensive and could be dangerous here on earth.)
 - d) The keeper of his commandment with steadfastness: John 8:31, 15:4, 9, 10, I John 2:6, 3:24
 - e) The fruit bearer. John 15:8
 - f) Are secret disciples really disciples? John 19:38, John 12:42, John 3:1,

CONCLUSION: The decision of the Master is absolute. Church discipline is not discipleship nor is obedience to a man equal to the discipleship of Jesus.