

Discipleship: The Lord is looking for Committed Men & Women

By

Rev. Dr. Roy Jones, Jr.

Matthew 16:24-25

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

1. Deny Yourself
2. Take up your Cross - The implication is that even if obedience is painful and humiliating, we should be willing to endure it for Christ.
3. Follow Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

To be a disciple of Jesus is to participate in God’s redemptive mission for the world.

A Disciple is one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another: such as Christianity.

A Disciple is a person who is a pupil (of a teacher) or a student, an apprentice (to a master craftsman); a learner; a follower.

Discipleship involves helping others to grow in their relationship with Christ.

John 15:13

¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

1. Discipleship is an act of love.
2. Discipleship is an unselfish act.

Matthew 4:18-20

Four Fishermen Called as Disciples

¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him.

²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

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1. Discipleship requires change/transformation. (Romans 12:1-2)
2. Discipleship requires commitment.
3. Discipleship requires us to be able to see (envision) the possibility in others.
4. Discipleship requires courage to call others to be a part of the mission field.

Mark 10:42-45

⁴² But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

The disciples of Jesus had to learn about what it meant to follow Jesus. They pushed and jockeyed with one another in order to see who would become the greatest in the kingdom of God. They had to learn the value of humility and service.

Following Jesus isn't about notoriety and big rewards – not in this life, anyway. Instead, those who choose to live as disciples of Christ must constantly give of themselves in order to serve others, as He did.

We must also be careful of our pride and ambition as we seek to follow Jesus – mainly because such attitudes will damage our relationship with Christ.

You cannot disconnect your personal walk with God from your faith. First, you must have great faith to trust God for personal victories and personal growth. Second, you must have great faith to grow a great church through soul winning. I don't believe you can win souls for Christ and create a Christian Community without “stepping out on faith” and attempting greater things for God than you can possibly accomplish apart from Divine Intervention.

The first followers of Jesus frequently rubbed shoulders with one another, ate, prayed, worshipped and experienced the richness of life together.

Acts 13:1-6 gives five things that are important to the vision of the church when it comes to making disciples:

1. Presence- Acts 13:1 “Now there were in the church...”
2. Participation- Acts 13:2 “As they ministered...”
3. Prayer- Acts 13:3 “And when they had fasted and prayed.”
4. Preaching- Acts 13:5 “...they preached the Word of God.”
5. Penetration- Acts 13:6 “...they had gone through the isle.”