



Sunday March 08, 2020
A Disciple of Jesus Christ
Part 1: The Call

We have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation according to the Scripture that states "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). We have confessed with our mouths the Lord Jesus and believed in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead, according to Romans 10:9. What's next in our journey of faith?

Moving from Being A Believer To Disciple

THE LORD JESUS HAS CALLED US TO BE HIS DISCIPLES, NOT JUST BELIEVERS.

In the Great Commission, the Lord Jesus expressed what He desired to see happen to all who would believe in the Gospel proclaimed in His name.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

In vs 19 the words 'make disciples' (Greek: *matheteuo*) has the idea of **BECOMING A DISCIPLE BY ENROLLING AS A LEARNER, OR PUPIL** or scholar. It indicates thought accompanied by endeavor. So those who believe in Jesus Christ are to grow into becoming His disciples by becoming pupils, that is by enrolling in a process of learning that will transform them into disciples of Jesus.

We are called to be disciples. We are all to enroll in God's "program" of becoming a disciple of Jesus.

As an expression that we are taking on this journey of becoming disciples, we are baptized or "immersed" into the God of the Bible - the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are completely His. Nothing is withheld.

In vs 20 the word 'teaching' (Greek: *didasko*) means primarily to give or impart **instruction and doctrine.**



One of the things that God uses in the process of making us disciples is instruction, teaching and training for us to ardently and passionately hold on to all that Jesus has taught us.

Through the books of Acts, we see that those who believed were referred to as disciples of Jesus Christ. They did not have the option of remaining as "believers". Every believer was a disciple!

And it was disciples who came to be known as "Christians".

Acts 11:26

....And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Becoming Like The Master

Matthew 10:24-25

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

A "disciple" was not only a pupil, but an adherent, an ardent follower, someone who followed his Master's teaching closely. DISCIPLES ARE IMITATORS OF THEIR TEACHER. A disciple is someone who is becoming like his teacher.

A DISCIPLE IS A LEARNER AND FOLLOWER OF HIS TEACHER, COMMITTED TO BECOMING LIKE HIS TEACHER.

As disciples of Jesus we are committed to understanding His heart, knowing His mind, living for His purposes, living life His way, and doing His works (what he would do).

Jesus said "*it is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher*". THIS IS THE NECESSARY AND SUFFICIENT END GOAL OF BEING HIS DISCIPLE, THAT WE BECOME LIKE HIM.

The Impact and Influence

What a powerful impact this will have on people around us, as they see us live like our Master!

At home, the wife or the husband who is Christ-like will win over the respect of her or his spouse and children. They are loving, tender, patient, compassionate and kind. They are positive, uplifting, inspiring, bringing peace and joy in every situation. They are full



of faith and courage. They rise up against all odds, defy the seemingly insurmountable mountains, and dare to command storms to calm.

At the college or the workplace, people will observe with great respect and admiration the man or woman who walks in Christ-like virtues. Their words carry weight. They are known as people of integrity. They demonstrate divine insight, prudence and wisdom. They are fruitful, productive and show results.

Where-ever we are, as disciples we are re-presenting our Master. People see the likeness of Jesus Christ in us. At one point in time Jesus walked in an earthly body in and around Jerusalem. Today He walks, talks and works through the bodies of millions of His disciples all over the world, in all spheres of society. The disciples of Jesus are revealing Jesus everywhere!

The Father's Plan

Being conformed to the image or likeness of Jesus Christ is the Father's plan for every believer.

Romans 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

As disciples, we are to be fashioned into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Christ-likeness, becoming like Him, is the goal.

We need to understand the discipleship process that God has in place and we also need to understand the fruits (outcomes) of us becoming more and more like Jesus.

What Discipleship is Not

Sometimes we misunderstand what "discipleship" (i.e. the process of becoming Jesus' disciple) is. So to clarify things, here are a few comments:

Discipleship is not following a set of rules, do's and don'ts.

Sometimes people communicate becoming a disciple of Jesus as a set of rules, do's and don'ts, as though you need to look a certain way, dress a certain way, etc., in order to be like Jesus. Being a disciple of Jesus is more than adhering to an outward form, meaningless ritual or empty function.



As we will learn later, true discipleship happens through meaningful relationships - both through a growing intimate relationship with the Master, and through meaningful relationships with other disciples.

Discipleship is not selective adherence

Discipleship is not selectively taking on only what you like and leaving out other instructions that Jesus gave. As we mentioned earlier, a disciple is completely "immersed" into the Lord He has chosen to follow. He takes everything the Master instructs. His goal is to grow up in "all things to be like Him" and to reach the full measure of Christ-likeness (Ephesians 4;13,15).

Discipleship is not a retainer program

Discipleship is not something the local church is forcing you into, to get you to stay in church. Discipleship is the Master's call for every believer. The local church serves you in your journey of becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Overcoming Practical Challenges

What are some of the road blocks or hindrances that we have to overcome in our discipleship journey?

Here are a few that we'd like to make mention of:

No time - Like anything else in which we wish to make progress, we must be willing to commit time towards this. Discipleship will not happen by having someone lay hands on you to pray for you. While ministry through the laying on of hands can help you, there are many things in your transformation into Christ-likeness, that will require you to invest time.

Overload of information - With the internet there is an overload of teaching, sermons, books, podcasts, etc. accessible to the believer. Sometimes we mistake information for sound life-transforming instruction that helps us mature into Christ-likeness. Sometimes we substitute many of these resources for basic important disciplines like reading the Bible, personal time in prayer, etc.

Superficiality - It is also sad to say that sometimes, we tend to replace genuine personal spiritual growth and transformation with superficial things as emotionally exciting experiences, be it in listening to a sermon, a worship experience, etc.



Pull of worldliness - The attractions and distraction that come from the world are many and sometimes very compelling. Hence we need to be that much more committed to our call to become disciples of Jesus.

What Jesus Said

Here is a quick summary of some of the key things Jesus said on what it means to be His disciple. We will elaborate of some of these later.

- 1) The disciple's goal is to become just like their Teacher and Master, Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:25).
- 2) Disciples must be willing to face ridicule, false accusation and persecution just as their Master did (Matthew 10:25).
- 3) The disciple is not greater or above their Master (Matthew 10:24). This means the disciple must walk the same path their Master walked. There are no shortcuts for the disciple.
- 4) When a disciple is perfectly, thoroughly trained, then they will be like their Master (Luke 6:40).
- 5) A disciple believes and lives by their Master's Word (John 8:31).
- 6) A disciple's love for their Master must supersede their love for any other earthly relationship (Luke 14:26).
- 7) A disciple must carry their cross daily (Luke 14:27). The cross represents a place of suffering, separation and sacrifice.
- 8) A disciple must forsake all for the sake of their Master (Luke 14:33). This means the disciple's love for their Master is greater than their love or affection for anything else in this world.
- 9) The way others will know we are disciples of Jesus is by the love we show through our lives (John 13:35).
- 10) A disciple will bear much fruit so that the Father will be glorified through their lives (John 15:8).



11) Disciples will do the works of healing, miracles and deliverance as Jesus did (Matthew 10:1, John 14:12).

Will You Say 'Yes' To The Call?

So what will your response be to the call to become a disciple? Are you willing to make this journey from being a believer in Jesus Christ to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ? In the next message we will discuss the process through which this happens.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL

There is nothing too hard for God. Nothing impossible with God.

Proclaim Jesus Christ as Savior, Healer, Deliver, Miracle Worker.

He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

The power of the Holy Spirit and all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for us today.

We have been commissioned to do the works He did and even greater works.

We must come to Him in faith and we will receive.

Minister for people to receive healings, deliverances and miracles.

Take testimonies.

Lead in prayer for repentance and salvation.



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday March 08, 2020
A Disciple of Jesus Christ
Part 1: The Call

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Matthew 10:24-25; Matthew 28:19-20*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

- 1) *What does "make disciples" in the Great Commission mean?*
- 2) *Try to capture in a sentence or two what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ (as stated by Jesus Himself)?*
- 3) *After having become a believer, do you feel you have made progress in your personal journey of becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ? If there have been things that have hindered or in some way delayed progress, what would these be? What are some*



positive steps you can take to go past these hindrances in your personal discipleship journey?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>