

Discipleship

God calls us to be disciples, a student of His, a follower. The four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the history of Jesus' life and death. They should inspire you to follow Him. The Gospels help develop faith to believe in Him. They give us hope of something better in this life, and the life to come. We learn through the Gospels, the example Christ (His words and actions), gave for us to follow. We see what happens to others when they choose to follow Him. We also witness the example of those who choose **not** to follow His words. We get a glimpse of the healing power and the delivering power of Jesus Christ, along with many other types of miracles as needs arose. We learn how compassionate Christ is--- how forgiving He is!

Through the Gospels we watch as Christ calls his disciples one by one. We learn how He taught them. We see how faith grew in their hearts as he showed them His love.

We get a clear picture of Calvary. The great God of Heaven robed himself in the flesh of the man Jesus Christ to pay the debt of our sin for us. He was born of a woman to redeem us from the destiny we so deserve. He gave us a chance, a hope for eternal life. We learn of His agonies the day of His crucifixion, and we learn of the injustice of mankind to a man who "laid down His life for His friends".

➤ Lesson:

We read in the Gospels: "*The Great Commission.*"

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:14-20

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18. They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Luke 24:44-53

44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

This is the same story written by three different men's perspectives. Jesus sent them on a mission to spread the Gospel everywhere.

We read in the Gospels that John the Baptist came preaching repentance, and that all should repent of their sins and follow Christ when He comes. He baptized those that believed him. Which was a big thing because they had just crucified Him for saying He was the Christ!

As we progress through the **Book of Acts**, we see how the men that Jesus had trained and had given the "Great Commission," started obeying that "Great Commission." They started churches everywhere and God blessed them with many converts as they went.

When we read about the **Ephesians** conversion we get a clear picture of a disciple.

Acts 19:1-7

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

7 And all the men were about twelve.

A Christian disciple is a follower of Christ. We believe in Him and we try to obey His Word so that we can be more like Him. We are not perfect, but we grow in grace and in knowledge every day.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Matthew 16:24-27

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Is becoming a disciple of Christ easy? No! We can't pet our flesh and be a disciple of Christ. So much of the Bible is centered on denying our flesh. We can call ourselves "Christians," but if you will notice verse 27; it states that we will be judged by what we actually do, not by what we call ourselves.

If we died today, what would be said at our funeral? People always say nice things at funerals, even if the person was a jerk. But, would they say that we truly were Christians? Christ-like? It would do us well to try to live what we would like to be said at our funeral.

This is a bit morbid, but try writing your own obituary. You don't have to share it with others, but it might open our eyes to "our works."