

# Discipleship

## WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

### **Matthew 28:18-20**

16Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[a]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- What is Jesus' vision and purpose for everyone in the world?
- What is the definition of a disciple?
- Once someone becomes a disciple, what should they do according to this passage?
- After someone is baptized what should be done?
- What is the difference between teaching *knowledge* and teaching *obedience*?
- What do we see here is the last thing that Jesus taught?
- God wants everyone to become a disciple and then make disciples themselves.

## THEY WERE CALLED CHRISTIANS

### **Acts 11:25-26**

22News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. 25Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

- In this passage is there a difference between the terms "Disciple" of Christ and "Christian"?
- They are used interchangeably. Why do you think they developed different meanings?
- We will study what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and in doing so we will also study what it means to be a Christian.

## MAKING THE DECISION TO DIE TO YOURSELF

### **Galatians 2:20-21**

20I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"<sup>[d]</sup>

- What does Paul mean when he says that he has been crucified with Christ and that he no longer lives?
- Go anywhere, do anything, give up everything.

- According to **Luke 9:23-26**, is the decision that Paul made only necessary for him or does anyone who wants to be Jesus' disciple have to make the same decision?
- In your life what would you have to deny or get rid of to be a follower of Jesus?
- What would happen if you tried to follow Jesus, but never truly died to yourself?
- Why does God want us to die to ourselves?
- What does it mean to take up your cross daily?

## THE COST OF BEING A DISCIPLE

### **Luke 14:25-33**

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. 27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? 29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. 33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

- Jesus wants unrivaled love. Do you love Jesus more than anyone else? (Matt 10:37)
- Are you ready to die to yourself every day of your life?
- Jesus doesn't want you to make an emotional or rash decision. Jesus wants you to think through all of the implications that this decision will have on your life and the lives of those around you. (2 Tim 3:12)
- God is the bigger army. You are the smaller army. The battle represents Judgment Day. There is no possible way you can win this battle, so you must ask for terms of a peace agreement long before the battle occurs. You must then fulfill every term of peace that God decides upon.
- In ancient Israel, if one nation surrendered to another, they became that nation's slaves. God's terms of peace are total, unconditional surrender. You must give up everything you have to become Jesus' disciple. What do you think He means? Are you ready to give up everything you have to be His disciple? What are the benefits to this life?

## PRODUCING SEEDS

### **John 12:23-26**

23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

- What does this passage say will happen when you die to yourself?
- What does that mean? What seeds can you produce?
- What are ways you can share the gospel with others?

#### A NEW MISSION IN LIFE

##### **Mark 1:16-20**

14After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" 16As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 18At once they left their nets and followed him. 19When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

- What new mission did Jesus give His new disciples?
- Why does Jesus want His disciples to be involved in making more disciples?
- What would you say is your mission in life right now?
- Are you ready to take on Jesus' mission to make other disciples? (**Luke 19:10**)