

Make Disciples (Part 2) *The Commitment to Discipleship*

Luke 9:1-2

Introduction: In this sermon series, we are talking about what it means to be and to make true disciples of Christ. We have defined discipleship as... "*Discipleship is a lifelong relationship with Jesus that makes us like Jesus as we do what He tells us to do as we share our lives with others.*"

In His ministry, Jesus seems to make a distinction between salvation and discipleship. Salvation is open to all who will come by faith, while discipleship is only for believers willing to pay a price. As we have said (and will repeat many times in this series) Discipleship is not something we do once or twice. It is a lifestyle that must be lived out each and every day. We will spend our entire lives becoming more like Jesus, spending time with Him in prayer, the study of His Word and ministering to others and one another. Discipleship in the Christian's life means following after Jesus, and patterning our life after His so much so, that we look, act, sound, and love, like Jesus as we share our lives with others. *The commitment to discipleship is a determined commitment to follow Jesus where He leads us.* When Peter and his friends agreed to become Christ's disciples, they knew they were committing themselves to following Christ, but they didn't know where He would take them. *But they soon found out!*

I. There would be a time of commission: (vv. 1- 6)

The idea of following and learning from Jesus was to then put what they learned into practice (the same is true for us).

This group of twelve had been ordained some months before (Luke 6:13-16) and they had been traveling with Jesus as His helpers.

Now He was going to send them out in pairs (Mark 6:7) to have their own ministry and to put into practice what they had learned. (A commitment to discipleship understands...)

A. At some point we have to leave the classroom and put what we have been learning into practice in the real world – Now...

1. **Jesus selected His disciples with care** –
2. **Jesus sent His disciples out with care as They went two by two** - because discipleship is relational (It's learning to live and minister together -sharing our lives with each other).

Spiritual adoption is God's work. We cannot manufacture these relationships. But we can create opportunities for God to introduce people into each of our lives by being available, open, and engaged. We need this family called the church -Because Jesus knew...

B. Sometimes in ministry together, we will encounter rejection –Rejection hurts, and can leave us dejected, wanting to quit, or give up. We need that family around us to listen, help us heal, and encourage us to keep going!

C. Sometimes in doing ministry together, we will encounter reception. And we need that family around to rejoice with and celebrate those sweet victories!

D. At all times in doing ministry together, we'll have all we need to do what He has commissioned us to do. Notice here...

1. **Jesus gave them** – His power and authority.
 - a. **Jesus sent these men out** -They were to go in His power, they had no power –
 - b. **Jesus gave them His authority** – As ministers with Christ's power and authority they were like a traffic cop who by simply raising his hand can bring a speeding two-ton automobile to a complete stop.
2. **Jesus gave us** - His authority and power to be and go make disciples as well (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
 - **Scripture tells us at the moment of our salvation** (Rom. 8: 9-11; Eph. 1:13-14; Ac. 1:8)
 - **And Jesus who has all authority in heaven**, and on earth, brings His authority to us as we go to make disciples (Mt. 28:18-20!

Jesus gives them an interesting instruction about their mission – “Travel light.”

II. There could be no confusion: (vv. 18-20)

When the disciples got back from their exciting ministry trip, they couldn't wait to tell Jesus all they had done! This became a private time of encouragement, empathy and evaluation. (Fast forward to vv.18-20) Jesus has two questions...

A. People were confused. Some of the more popular perceptions. v. 19 *Jesus was specifically interested in who the disciples thought He was.*

B. The disciples were convinced of two things.

1. **They were convinced about their mission** -There was no confusion about their priorities. (v1, 2, 6)

Now, Jesus prayed before asking for their personal confession of faith. The crowd would have its opinions (see Luke 9:7-8), but His disciples must have convictions. And they did...

2. **They were convinced about their Messiah** – Peter was the spokesman for the group and he gave a clear witness to the deity of Jesus Christ. This was the second time that he confessed Christ publicly (John 6:68-69). Except for Judas (John 6:70-71), all of the Twelve had faith in Jesus Christ.

Immediately Jesus commands them not to tell others this (v. 21) because it was not time for Him to be proclaimed publicly as Messiah.

Here Jesus expresses He is going to the cross and anyone who desires to follow Him will have to be willing to pay the price....

III. There would be a cost to their commitment: (vv. 23-26)

A. Anyone can be a disciple of Christ – “*If anyone*” opens the door to everyone...

B. not everyone will be a disciple of Christ because of the cost-

Conclusion: While discipleship should be at the center of the Christian life and every Christian's life – it's not because there is a real cost to be a committed disciple of Christ. Anyone who desires to, can commit to following Jesus, no matter how hard the path gets. (The question is will you?)