



DISCIPLESHIP

COST & BENEFIT

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KINGDOM SEEKERS INTERNATIONAL

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Becoming a Disciple

Lesson 1

A disciple is one who imitates his teacher. Every Christian is called to be a disciple of Jesus, to learn from Him and live according to His example.

Disciples follow their Master, while converts may change their minds. The Goal of discipleship is to make disciples not converts and expand God's Kingdom, the Body of Christ, which speaks of growth.

There are basic principles that need to be followed to be a disciple such as:

Foundation: Obedience to God's Word

Commitment: Total commitment to Jesus the Master¹

Fruit Bearing: Fruit bearing relationship with Jesus²

Love: Unconditional sacrificial love for others³

Dedication: To fulfill Christ's commission⁴

A disciple asks this question in every situation – “What would Jesus do?”

As your knowledge of Jesus' teachings and actions increases through reading God's Word, so will your ability of knowing what Jesus would do in any situation, increase. You as a disciple should make a firm decision to do what Jesus would do. There are also times when you need to submit important decisions to those in spiritual authority over you. You must be a 'Kingdom Seeker' seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness⁵. God will keep His promises and provide for you. As a disciple you will experience God's pruning, refining, purifying process. Love must

¹ Mt6:24; Jn10:1-18; ² Jn15:4-5; ³ Jn13:34-35; ⁴ Mt28:18-20; ⁵ Mt6:33

rule your actions, words and attitudes. Forgiveness, compassion, and concern must be part of your love walk. You need to resist every temptation to return to the old evil habits.

Discipleship is important because it is God's strategy to reach the world. Jesus trained twelve disciples for 3 ½ years of His public ministry. He commissioned all His followers to train disciples. Even a few disciples can achieve far more than a large number of converts. The end result should be spiritually mature Christians. Winning converts adds to the number of born again believers but discipleship brings forth disciples who multiply the born again ones.

There are certain signs of spiritual maturity⁶. These are as follows:

Fruitfulness, humility, excellence, intimacy with Jesus, fruit of the Spirit, stability, walking in the fear of the Lord, Knowledge of God's Word and discernment. This is summed as Christ likeness. It is only through mature discipleship and loving example that the disciple can convey the character of Jesus to the world. ⁷

Finally it is costly to be a disciple of Jesus. We need to deny ourselves, carry our own cross and follow Him. We need to give our whole lives and everything we have to God for Him to use, as He wants. God comes first in the disciple's life. Jesus challenged everyone to first count the cost. In view of the high cost of discipleship, which Jesus required, we notice that it ended up with a few deeply committed followers that was enough to change the world. A true disciple realizes and accepts

⁶ Mt25:14-30; Jn13:12-17; 2Cor13:11; Ga2:20; 5:22-23; Eph4:11-16; Heb5:13-6:2; 1Jn2:6; ⁷ Eph4:11-16; 1Pt5:1-3; Mt12:29; ⁸ Lk14:27; 8:57-62; Jn6:60-66; Mk10:17-31; Jn13:13;

the Lordship of Jesus in every area of his life. He lives and dies for the principles of God's Kingdom. ⁸

1. Should we be living as we want or as God wants? [2Cor5: 15]

2. Who is our guide in the things of Christ Jesus? [Jn16: 13-14]

3. What are the two greatest commandments of God? [Mt22: 37-39]

4. How can we as disciples walk in agape love towards God & others? [Rom5: 5]

5. Why must we aim at spiritual maturity? [Col1: 28]

6. What does it mean to take up your cross? [Mt16: 24-25]

7. Should we count the cost of being a disciple of Jesus? [Lk14: 25-35]

True / False

8. A disciple is determined to follow Christ regardless of the cost

9. The goal of discipleship is to win converts

⁸ Lk14:27; 8:57-62; Jn6:60-66; Mk10:17-31; Jn13:13;

10. A disciple reproduces

11. Name five basic principles for becoming a disciple [a word or phrase]

12. Name three responsibilities of a disciple

13. What is the end result of discipleship?

14. Express seven signs of spiritual maturity in a word or phrase each

15. Give two reasons why we need to be spiritually mature

Cost & Benefit

Lesson 2

No pain, no gain! We shall reap only what we sow. Unless the disciple makes a commitment to faithfully and consistently follow instructions of the teacher and do spiritual exercises regularly he will not have significant spiritual growth. It is very important that each disciple makes a commitment to undergo training for a certain length of time and strictly follow the trainer's instructions and carry out assignments on a regular basis.

The basic principle followed in discipleship program is to learn by doing. The disciple is expected to be loyal to his 'trainer' one hundred per cent. He should also have utmost respect for him and should faithfully carry out all his instructions and orders without question. His availability to assist his trainer at all times is also very important. It is also very important that the disciple must put his heart; mind and spirit in doing what is assigned to him and nothing else should matter, other than to obey and follow his master faithfully. The key word in this relationship is total commitment.

The benefits of discipleship program far surpass the cost of discipleship. During the period of discipleship training the disciples have unlimited opportunities to learn and to grow in the dimensions of power, wisdom and love of Jesus so that eventually they will be able to continue the very works that Jesus did. There is no other program on the earth that will train and equip individuals to conform to the image of Christ. The motivation of the disciples comes from what they see in the life of their master. If nothing in the life of the master fascinates or attracts the

disciples, they will not follow him. When Jesus called the first disciples to follow Him, every one seized the opportunity and followed Him instantly.

Questionnaire:

1. Do you know your instructor?
2. Do you know what you have been instructed to do after attending a Church?
3. Have you followed those instructions carefully?
4. Are you willing to undergo training for a certain time and follow instructions and carry out assignments?
5. Will you submit to and obey your 'trainer' whether he / she is right or wrong except in sin?
6. Will you assist the trainer even if you disagree with him / her?
7. What do you understand by commitment? [Share]

Sharing / Discussion



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Dr. Tony Mathias Executive Director and Senior Pastor of Kingdom Seekers International is based in India. He is involved in Teaching, training and mobilizing Christians to live effective and Victorious Christian lives. He conducts Seminars and Workshops On a variety of topics including leadership. He has served as Spiritual Advisor ministering to the Body of Christ Inland as well as Overseas with a vision to spread the Word of God Internationally