

Discipleship Series - 9/22/19

The 12 Apostles

TEXT – Mat 4:19-22 *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. 21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. 22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.*

INTRO – There are several names given to born again believers:

- **Christians – 3 times**

The word "Christian" simply means a "follower or disciple of Jesus Christ." We find this label first used and applied to the saved in the city of Antioch:

Act 11:26 *And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

Act 26:27-28 *King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. 28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

1 Pe 4:16 *Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

- **Saints - 95 times**

1 Co 1:2 *Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

Eph 2:19 *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

- **Priests**

1 Pe 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

1 Pe 2:5 *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

- **children of God** - with God being our Father (I John 3:1)
- **elect** - reflects God choosing us through Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 1:3-4)
- **the body of Christ** - Christ being the head (I Corinthians 12:20; Ephesians 1:22-23)

- **citizens of the kingdom of Heaven** - God being the King (Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 1:8)
- **servants** - showing our station and work (Luke 17:10)
- **Ambassadors**
- **Believers**
- **Disciples**

A Disciple - 1. mathetes "a learner" one who follows one's teaching," as the "disciples" of John, [Mat 9:14](#); of the Pharisees, [Mat 22:16](#); of Moses, [Joh 9:28](#); it is used of the "disciples" of Jesus (a) especially of the twelve apostles (b) of all who manifest that they are His "disciples" by abiding in His Word. A "disciple" was not only a pupil, but an adherent; hence they are spoken of as imitators of their teacher; cf. [Joh 8:31](#); [15:8](#).

There are certain steps to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ

1. **Salvation**

2. **Learning from a teacher** – But it's more than learning information

3. **Following an example**

Mat 16:24 *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.*

1 Co 11:1 *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

4. **Correction**

Heb 12:11 *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

5. **Personal responsibility**

2 Co 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Rom 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

The plural form of Disciple most often refers to the 12 Apostles

Why were they called disciples?

I. They followed Christ on the Earth

- **Some followed to see what they would get from Him**

John 6:2 *And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.*

John 6:26-27 *Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. 27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*

- Some followed Him sincerely

II. They Changed Their Priorities to Follow Him

2 Co 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

III. Jesus Taught Them Truth

Matthew 5-7 *The sermon on the mount*

IV. They Watched His Life and Actions

John The Baptist – Behold The Lamb Of God

Peter – Thou art the Christ

Thomas – My Lord and my God

Pilate - I find no fault in him.

Centurion - Truly this was the Son of God

V. They Had To Learn What It Meant To Be A Disciple

John 6:66-67 *From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. 67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?*

Luke 22:54 *Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed afar off.*

All the Apostles faced Martyrdom and John great persecution

Mar 10:37-39 *They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. 38 But Jesus said unto them, **Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?** 39 And they said unto him, **We can.** And Jesus said unto them, **Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:***

CONCL –

The mission statement by a young African pastor found among his papers in Zimbabwe after he was martyred!

I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His and I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by Holy Spirit power.

My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me. My colors will be clear!