

Spiritual Formation

Growing Into the Image of Christ



1

Session 1: Discipleship

2

Main Idea

- **Christians are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ that make others into disciples of Jesus Christ. This is achieved through the combination of right doctrine, right character, and right actions.**



3

The Man/Woman of God

- **What is the Man/Woman of God like?**



4

The Man/Woman of God

- What is the Man/Woman of God like?
- A disciple of Jesus Christ that makes other disciples of Jesus Christ!
 - Certain Characteristics are necessary
 - Knows God's will for one's life
 - Pursues God's will for one's life.

5

God's Will For Your Life

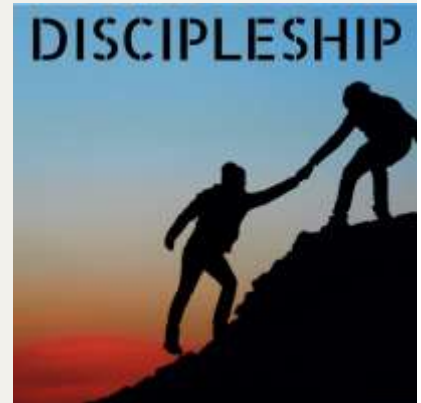
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- For this is God's will, your sanctification.



6

Discipleship

- Sanctification occurs through discipleship
- Matthew 28:19-20.
 - Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. I am with you always, to the end of the age.
- What is the primary command in this passage?
- How is Christ telling us to accomplish it?



7

Discipleship

- What is the primary command in this passage?
 - Make disciples
- How is Christ telling us to accomplish it?
 - Going to them
 - Baptizing them
 - Teaching them
- What do we teach them?
 - To observe EVERYTHING Christ has commanded us
- Doctrine + Character + Skill = Discipleship
 - The believer must excel in 1) doctrinal content; 2) Christian character; 3) spiritual giftedness from the Holy Spirit; 4) selfless service to the church.



8

Discipleship

- **Jesus models discipleship for us**
 - Taught His disciples like a Rabbi
- **Discipleship is learning in order to do.**
- **You learned your job the same way.**



9

Counting the Cost

- **Luke 14:26-33**
- **If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. “For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man started to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ “Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.**
- **Discuss Questions**

10

Counting the Cost

- **First, what do you think Jesus meant in verse 26 about hating family members?**
- **What does Jesus mean by disciples having to bear their own cross?**
- **In verses 28-32, Christ uses two great illustrations. What is point?**
- **Verse 33 summarizes the main point of the text. What ultimately is Jesus saying that discipleship is?**

11

Being Like Our Master

- **Luke 6:40**
 - **A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.**
- **Questions**
 - **What is the goal of discipleship?**
 - **When is that goal achieved?**
 - **What do you think it means to be fully trained?**
- **Being like these guys (Matthew**
 - **The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had and bought it.**

12

Personal Application

- **Get with a partner and answer the following questions to each other.**
- **Do you have a strong amount of doctrinal knowledge committed in your heart and mind? To assist in answering this, consider the following questions.**
 - Can you recite the gospel in a way that adequately explains it to others?
 - Do you actively and regularly seek to learn more about God’s Word, or are you satisfied with what you already know?
 - What is your attitude when you have to do a lot of deep studying in order to understand what a Bible passage is teaching? Are you frustrated? Or does the studying bring you joy?
- **Is there anything in your life that you place before Jesus Christ? (family, work, hobbies, fear, etc.)**
- **Pick one thing you listed for number 2 (if you are honest, there will be something), and develop a basic plan of action of what you can do starting today to place Christ before this idol.**

13

Group Assignment

As you commit yourselves to discipleship and you teach others discipleship, there will be people who resist your efforts. Sometimes it is because they were taught false doctrine by previous teachers. So I would like the class to work together on this case study. Then present your answer in a group presentation.

- **It is Sunday, church service just ended, and you loved the sermon. The pastor preached on the importance of discipleship. After church, someone you have been getting to know better from the church approaches you and says he did not like the sermon. After asking why, you learn that he disagreed with the conclusion that all Christians must be disciples of Christ. He heard from a past teacher that if a person merely believes in Jesus, then he is saved, whether he lives like a disciple or not. As the conversation progresses, you learn that this person has not been baptized and has no intention of doing so because he does not think it is very important. Based on the content of this first lesson, how might you answer this person? Feel free to use any biblical data that you can find to correct this erroneous perspective.**

14