

## DISCIPLESHIP STUDY

### *Introduction:*

#### **Matthew 28:18 – 20**

- ◆ What is Jesus' desire for all people? (To become disciples)
- ◆ Like 'making' a cake...all needed ingredients or not a cake....make disciples...all the ingredients or you don't have a disciple.
- ◆ Did you know that Jesus never used the word "Christian"? In fact, the word "Christian" only appears three times in the New Testament. The term was introduced seven years after the church began (Acts 11:19 - 26)
- ◆ The word "disciple" appears over 270 times in the New Testament.
- ◆ Jesus defines the term disciple throughout His ministry. This study will show just a few of those times.
- ◆ Goal: To understand what it means to be Christian today, we must look at Jesus' expectation of what it means to be a disciple.
- ◆ NOTE: Disciple = Christian = Saved (helps us see the importance of understanding what a disciple is from God's point of view!)

#### **Mark 1:14 – 18**

- ◆ Jesus is calling the first disciples
- ◆ "Follow Me" – Be like Christ (Christian = Christ like)
  - The goal of the disciple is to imitate the heart, actions, purpose of Jesus.
- ◆ Jesus gave the first disciples a purpose – Instead of just fishing for fish, they were to fish for men and women.

#### **Luke 9:23 – 26**

- ◆ Denial of self
  - What does this mean for you? (Denial of sin, of unbiblical traditions and beliefs, denial of selfishness)
- ◆ Take up cross *daily*
- ◆ Follow Christ
- ◆ What good is it to live your whole life for this world, and lose who you were created by God to be?

#### **Luke 14: 25 – 33**

- ◆ He saw the crowds --- Jesus is interested in personal devotion, not just following a crowd mentality
- ◆ He used strong words – He did not want his disciples to be torn in two directions.
- ◆ In order to follow Christ, we must have an unrivaled love for Him.

#### **John 13:34 -35**

- ◆ This may seem like an easy thing, but love is challenging!

- ◆ We learn how to be like Christ by our relationships with other Christians --- learning to love, forgive, work together, etc. We are not called to be alone but to be with others. (God provides the church to help us to obey this command)

***Conclusion:***

- ◆ Matthew 28:18 – 20 – Jesus’ command to baptize those who have made the decision to be His disciples.
- ◆ Jesus’ definition of a disciple is NOT what most people in the religious world today describe.
- ◆ How many true disciples are in the world? (less than we think if using the definition of a disciple (Christian) from the Bible)
- ◆ Are you a disciple according to the Bible’s definition? (are you a Christian? Are you saved?)
- ◆ Has this study helped you to understand what a Christian is? Do you want to be a true Christian...that is, a disciple of Jesus?
- ◆ What do you need to do to become a disciple?

**OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES**

**Luke 11: 1- 4**

- ◆ Disciple says “teach me” – always learning how to better follow Christ
- ◆ Prayer – Disciples saw the strength that Jesus received from the Father
- ◆ Key – a disciple is one who prays, has a personal relationship with God
  - This prayer is an example of how to pray.

**John 8:31 -32**

- ◆ A disciple will “hold to” the teachings of Jesus

**Matthew 22:36 – 40**

- ◆ A disciple loves God first and foremost
- ◆ A disciple loves his neighbor (those around him)
- ◆ This is the life we were created for!