
ARE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

Mt 28:18-20 “¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

INTRODUCTION

That he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead (For the Church) and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places (For the Church), far above all rule and authority and power and dominion (For the Church), and above every name that is named (For the Church), not only in this age but also in the one to come (For the Church). And he put all things under his feet (For the Church) and gave him as head over all things to the church, Eph 1:20-22

That he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead (For me) and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places (For me), far above all rule and authority and power and dominion (For me), and above every name that is named (For me), not only in this age but also in the one to come (For me). And he put all things under his feet (For me) and gave him as head over all things (For me)

Jesus is everlasting HE said I am the beginning and the end, He said before Abraham was I am. Today we stand as children of living God with the Jesus in us.

Every one of us who is saved can truly say:

I have been raised from the dead in Christ Jesus

- ☑ I am seated at the right hand of God the Father in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
- ☑ I am far above all rulers and authority and power and dominion in Christ Jesus
- ☑ I am above every name that is named in Christ Jesus
- ☑ All things are under my feet in Christ Jesus

For in Christ Jesus you are saved, healed, and delivered. For all the power that it takes to save any human being, to heal any human being, to deliver any human being, to create the world with a word came to earth on the day of Pentecost. As in the days of old. At the very same day (The Feast of weeks) when God has written his laws on tablets of stones and gave them to Moses. On that that save date The Holy Spirit of God came to earth and filled the church as Jesus was filled.

The Bible says that God sent Jesus that He might become the firstborn of many brethren (**Romans 8:29**). God planted the seed of his son, Jesus, in order to get a harvest, and He reaps that harvest as new souls are added to the kingdom of God.

You are called a joined heir with Christ Jesus. The Word says that when you made Jesus your Lord, you became one spirit with Him. God sees you in Jesus. He not just came inside of you, but you went inside of him. We have preached that Jesus come inside a person, but we have thought very little of the fact that we have entered into Him. **John 15:7** “**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.**”

Now the Power of the Holy Spirit is on you, only because you are in Christ Jesus. Because you are in Christ Jesus, you can live like Him, talk like Him, and act like Him. The Word of God will change you –spirit, soul and body.

1. In The Great Commission, notice Jesus’ command... - **Mt 28:18-20**
 - a. **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”**
 - b. To **“make disciples”** is the GOAL of evangelizing the world for Christ

2. Are you a disciple of Jesus...?
 - a. Perhaps you believe in Jesus
 - b. You might even be one to attend church services regularly

[But is that what it means to be His disciple? The purpose of this word is to make clear what is involved in being a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Let's start with...]

THE DEFINITION OF DISCIPLESHIP

THE WORD DISCIPLE...

1. Literally means **a learner**
2. It denotes **“one who follows another’s teaching” - Vine’s**
3. A disciple was not only a learner, he was also **a believer**
4. For this reason disciples were spoken of as **imitators** of their teachers

THE GOAL OF A DISCIPLE...

1. Stated by Jesus himself: to be like his or her teacher - Lk 6:40

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

2. To be Jesus' disciple, then, is to strive to be like Him!
3. This coincides with God's goal in the redemption of mankind, that we be conformed to the image of His Son - Ro 8:29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren

[Are you trying to **follow Jesus** and **become like Him**? Unless you do, it cannot be said that you are His disciple! Jesus gave us some **identifying marks** which help to further identify a true disciple...]

THE MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP

ABIDES IN JESUS' WORDS...

1. Note what Jesus said to those who believed in Him - Jn 8:31

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

2. This would imply being a diligent student of the teachings of Christ
3. It also requires one to be a "doer" of the Word - Mt 7:21-27; Jm 1:21-25

LOVES THE BRETHREN...

1. Consider what Jesus said to His followers - Jn 13:34-35
2. With a love patterned after the love of Jesus ("as I have loved you")
3. With a love that is visible to the world ("by this all will know")

BEARS MUCH FRUIT...

1. Read what Jesus told His disciples - Jn 15:8
2. Notice the word "much" (also found in verse 5)
 - a. Jesus is not talking about an occasional good deed
 - b. But a lifestyle which prompts people to glorify God! - **Mt 5:16; 1Pe 2:12**
3. Failure to bear much fruit will result in being severed from Christ - Jn 15:1-2

[To be a disciple of Jesus Christ means more than just a casual church member. It requires **commitment**, especially in regards to: 1) **the teachings of Christ**, 2) **the love of brethren**, and 3) **bearing fruit**. The commitment involved is seen further when we consider...]

Week (2)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

JESUS MUST COME FIRST...

5. Made strikingly clear by Jesus Himself - Lk 14:25-26

6. Before anyone else, including members of our own family - Mt 10:34-37
7. Even before one's own self - Lk 9:23-25

WILLING TO SUFFER FOR JESUS...

8. Taking up our own cross to follow Him - Lk 14:27
9. Trying to live godly lives in an ungodly world, we may find that following Christ sometimes involves ridicule and persecution - 2Ti 3:12
10. Even if we are blessed to escape such things, we must still be willing to expend time and energy in promoting the cause of Christ in positive ways

FORSAKING ALL TO FOLLOW JESUS...

11. Having counted the cost - Lk 14:28-33
12. In other words, Jesus must be King and Lord of our lives
13. Nothing can take precedent over Him and His Will for us

[This **cost** of discipleship required by Jesus caused many to turn from following Him. But Jesus wasn't trying to attract large crowds, He wanted disciples! Is the **cost** worth it? I believe so, for consider..]

THE REWARDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

FUTURE BLESSINGS...

14. We shall be saved from the wrath of God which is to come - Ac 17:31; Ro 5:9
15. We can look forward with joyful anticipation of eternity with God, free from sorrow, pain and death - Re 21:1-8

PRESENT BLESSINGS...

16. Jesus offers peace the world cannot give, to calm the troubled heart - Jn 14:27
17. His words inspire joy to lift our spirits out of any depression - Jn 15:11

18. He offers to those who follow Him the abiding love of God, which casts out fear - Jn 15:9; **1Jn 4:18**
19. He makes it possible for us to be members of the family of God - Mk 10:28-30

[There are many other blessings we could mention that are enjoyed by disciples of Jesus; but these suffice to demonstrate that though discipleship is costly, the rewards far exceed the cost!

Now that we understand the nature of discipleship, its cost and rewards, I hope that we want to be true disciples of Jesus Christ. **How does one begin?** For the answer we return to our text (**Mt 28:19-20**)...]

THE BEGINNING OF DISCIPLESHIP

INVOLVES BAPTISM...

1. **Why baptism? - cf. Mt 28:19**
 - a. Remember the goal of discipleship: to be like Jesus
 - b. He was holy and sinless, yet we are to be like Him
 - c. Baptism is an act of faith which puts us in contact with the cleansing blood of Jesus so we can be forgiven - cf. **Ac 2:38; 22:16; Ro 6:3-4**
 - d. It is also the means by which one “puts on Christ” - **Ga 3:27**
 - e. So baptism is the logical starting place for true discipleship!
2. **What is baptism?**
 1. An act of submission which must be preceded by faith in Jesus and repentance for our sins - **Ac 2:36-38; 8:36-37**
 2. This precludes infant baptism. For infants are incapable of believing and repenting
 3. An act of submission which involves a burial in water, in which one then rises to walk in newness of life through the power of God - **Ac 8:38; Ro 6:3-4; Col 2:12**
 - 1) This precludes sprinkling or pouring as a mode of baptism

- 2) For neither of these involve a burial nor an immersion (which is the meaning of the Greek word “baptidzo”)
- 3) When done according to the Word of God, baptism is an act of faith on our part which results in a wonderful working of God in our lives!
- 4) Our sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus - **Ac 22:16; Ep 5:25-27**
- 5) We are regenerated and renewed by the Spirit of God so we can now live for God! - **Tit 3:5-6**
- 6) It is truly a rebirth involving both water and the Spirit - **Jn 3:5**

INCLUDES FURTHER TEACHING, OBEDIENCE.

1. Note carefully what follows baptism - cf. Mt 28:20
2. This brings us back to the very definition of discipleship
3. For Jesus clearly states:
 - a. We are to be **taught** (to be **learners**)
 - b. We are to **observe** (to be **adherents** or **doers**)
4. Therefore we embark on a life devoted to learning and doing all Jesus commanded!

CONCLUSION

1. Only those **scripturally baptized** and **demonstrating the marks of discipleship**, despite the **costs**, can truly be called disciples of Jesus!
2. Only they can look forward to the rewards of discipleship, and take comfort in Jesus’ promise: **“and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” - Mt 28:20**

Have you taken the initial steps in becoming a disciple of
Jesus (faith, repentance, and baptism)?

Are you becoming more like Him by demonstrating the marks of discipleship in your life...?