

## Jesus the Master Teacher: Jesus and Discipleship

By Bob Young

To focus on Jesus is a great focus.

Jesus was many things. These have been the topics of your summer series.

Now we come to the end. What shall we say? What would be a fitting conclusion?

In Matthew, Jesus came teaching, preaching, and healing.

Disciple is a good NT word—used multiple times, 28-30? Mostly in Gospels, Acts. Why? How have we ended up focused on Christian, which occurs only 3 times. Default—disciple was already taken? AC preferred disciple.

Who is a disciple? Why don't we focus on being disciples? What does it mean?

How can we be disciples? Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*.

I want to present Jesus as the master teacher. Master's degree; schoolmaster. Master = teacher, master = Lord.

John 15. When master is Lord, then we are servants, or friends. When master is teacher, we are disciples, cf.

Luke 14; Mt. 10. We must learn to read in context. "Cannot be my disciple" in Luke is "is not worthy of me" in Matthew.

Jesus came as a teacher, rabbi. Many other things are true—creator, goodness vs. Satan, sacrifice remembered in supper, coming king, divine and human, mediator, Christ, but in very practical way, is he your rabbi?

Matt. 23:7 in context. Call no man rabbi, for one is your teacher, and that makes you brothers. Interesting passage. If we follow one teacher, that makes us brothers.

We may not understand discipleship until we understand the relationship between master and disciple, teacher and learner. We must also understand the relationship between learners.

Jesus was a master teacher.

We as disciples are learners. We know certain things about learning. This is back to school season.

Tonight: Back to the school of discipleship.

Learning is not easy—there is a struggle.

Learning is not instant—there is a process.

Learning requires change—there is transformation.

Learning is not inexpensive, cheap, but it is worth it.

Growth in knowledge is the key to this kind of growth, 2 Pet. 3:18. Peter, the disciple, says when all is said and done, here is the summary. Grow. This is the heart of a disciple. Peter spoke also of growth in 1 Pet. 2:1-3. The same theme is seen in 2 Pet. 1:5-7. I mention Peter because he knows what discipleship is all about. He had seen both the ups and downs.

Growth is not an option for the disciple—it is not an elective in the Christian curriculum. Every disciple of Jesus must grow. Growth (learning) is the essence of discipleship.

Certain changes occur when we are genuine disciples. We grow, our personality is transformed. The young disciple sees these changes and perceives growth. As we mature, get closer to the goal, growth slows down. We may not be able to see the changes nearly as well; they are not as visible, not as rapid. We may even resist change because it is uncomfortable, painful. It requires we break free from our comfort zone.

What makes a teacher great?

A great teacher is involved, modeling, helping, sharing. Jesus teaches by doing. Lk 11, teach us to pray.

The value is in what is taught. Be impressed with the teachings of Jesus. What does Jesus teach us?

Modern day parable

## **Text: Matt. 13:45-46 (find-buy-sell vs. find-sell-buy)**

### **FIND**

Discipleship is not easy. Jesus models the struggle toward all that is valuable. The struggle says it is not easy, but it was not easy for Jesus. Determining what is of value, finding the pearl or the field, finding the gift to be used in his service—none of this is easy.

Discipleship is not instant, instantaneous. Jesus models the search, the process is continuous, Heb. 5:9, even Jesus learned. The process is not instant. Progress is little by little.

### **SELL**

Discipleship is not inexpensive. The price to be paid is seen in the choices to be made. Discipleship is not cheap if we are to select the priorities that really matter.

We sell all that seems to have value, that which is fleeting value, for that which is of lasting value. This is the lesson of Luke 14, paralleled in Matt 10 as we have seen.

Luke 14 (|| Mt 10): Sell personal priorities; Sell position—power, prominence; Sell possessions.

Discipleship requires change, new priorities. We must be transformed.

Luke 14 says we must study followship. How do you follow? How are you following? What will it take for you to follow? What are the obstacles? What is keeping you from looking like Jesus? What is keeping you from reflecting Jesus? Do others see Jesus when they see you?

### **BUY**

Discipleship is not automatic. I am baptized, I have only admitted my find and committed to my sell. It is now mine to buy in to what Jesus has bought in my life through his blood. Discipleship sacrifices all for that which is of greatest value. Jesus models the victory. In Jesus victory is certain.

### **Conclusion**

- Disciples are learners—of information and of life.
- Disciples are life-long learners—seeking.
- Disciples are committed learners—selling.
- Disciples as learners are willing to pay the price—buying.

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### **Additional Resources**

#### **FIND**

Discipleship is a struggle.

First there is the struggle to know scripture, the word and will of God. It is not easy, but it is important. Most Christians learn more scripture during the first 5 years of being a Christian than at any other time. This is one important aspect of learning.

Another part of the struggle is in conduct. Most Christians see an immediate measurable change in conduct, and genuine disciples experience that struggle.

To continue the struggle requires discipline. The lives of non-disciples are characterized by lack of discipline—disciples are disciplined. Makes sense, doesn't it?

Knowledge of God, God's Word and God's will and way; morality, discipline are worthy goals. An atheist can gain knowledge of God's word; many non-religious people live moral lives, and self-discipline is the subject of many popular books.

But the struggle is really seen in the Christian growth reflected in Micah 6:6-8: act justly, love mercy, walk humbly. What does the Lord require of us?

Ultimately, discipleship is a struggle between what you are and what you should be. There is no growth when the struggle stops. When we quit learning, we quit growing. This must not be a struggle with past mistakes or sins already forgiven. A Christian who struggles with forgiveness will never have peace and security.

But the struggle is real: 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:12-14. Think of the words of Jesus. Lk. 14. Matt. 10.

And the Bible says we should welcome such struggles, Jas. 1:2.

## **FIND**

Discipleship is a process.

Christian discipleship is a process of becoming something better, not just acting better. Discipleship is defined by what we are not by how we act.

One great example of this challenge is the continued interaction of Jesus with the Pharisees during his ministry. They were separatists. They measured life by the outside standards. Discipleship that fails to change the inside isn't genuine. You can clean up your act without cleaning up your attitude. Would you be willing to let others see your inside, to wear yourself inside out?

But the real point of the process we must understand is that we will not get there tomorrow. It takes patience. We live in a world of instant gratification, self-gratification. The trouble with instant gratification is that it takes too long.

We must avoid two problems: we must expect too much too soon. We must not be satisfied with too little too long.

## **SELL**

Discipleship requires change—there is transformation.

Disciples are changed people. We are transformed, renewed. Newness characterizes our lives.

Discipleship is becoming what God intends us to be, what God has called us to be. This is God's grace. Knowing who we are and whose we are changes our lives. Dogs do doggy things, Christians do Christ-like things.

## **BUY**

Discipleship is worth it.

Discipleship is learning which issues in obedience and more learning. Making disciples is a process of teaching/learning, disciples are marked, disciples continue to mature.

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## **RESOURCE #1: Corresponding sermon idea**

We must learn about Jesus; we must "learn Jesus."

To know about Jesus is good, but better is to know Jesus, Phil. 3. (Also, 1 Cor. 2:1-5)

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?**

First—to see Jesus, the master, the model, the ultimate goal. Maturity in Christ, fullness.

Second—to hear Jesus.

Third—to understand Jesus (much of this summer series)

Fourth—to accept Jesus and his message. (most have done this previously)

Fifth—to commit to Jesus. (most have done some version of this previously)

Sixth—to follow Jesus. (this is our great need)

### **IT IS NOT EASY TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS**

Discipleship is not constant—there are times of doubt.

I mention this because we must not become discouraged in our desire to be disciples.

### **BEING A DISCIPLE OF JESUS IS WORTH IT—IT WILL REMOLD YOUR LIFE**

Matthew 5-7 would be possibility, longest narrative, could show Big Matt.

Then break down 5-7 into triads, p. 296, show 3-fold structure—traditional righteousness, vicious cycle, transforming teaching (Table 1 in Resource #2)

Look at Jesus the Master Teacher, only look at the results (Table 2 in Resource #2). See their power, see their practicality, see that this can be done.

### **Conclusion**

You can be a disciple. You can be a follower.

## **RESOURCE #2**

### **Table 1: Examining the Sermon on the Mount as foundational in Matthew**

The traditional righteousness (ritual righteousness) is based on Jewish tradition and is the first part of the triad. You have heard it said.

The judgment cycle is presented as Jesus' teaching with authority, but the practice leads to judgment. This is the second part of the triad. Therefore, I say to you (but not an imperative).

The transforming teaching is Jesus' teaching with authority, a positive imperative, an initiative, not a prohibition. This is deliverance from the judgment cycle and participation in the kingdom of God. But.... ending with explanation of importance.

### **Table 2: Examining the Sermon on the Mount as foundational in Matthew**

Don't kill	Being angry...	Go be reconciled
Don't commit adultery	Looking with lust	Remove cause of temptation
Give certificate/divorce	Divorcing=adultery	Be reconciled
Don't swear falsely	Swearing=false claim	Yes be yes, no be no
Eye for eye, tooth for tooth	Resist by evil means	Turn other cheek, give
Love neighbor/hate enemy	Only as Gentiles?	All-inclusive, as Father in heaven
When give	Blow trumpet	Give in secret
When pray	Make show	Pray in secret
When pray	Babbling as others	Therefore pray....
When fast	Appear gloomy	Father rewards
Don't amass treasures	Destruction-stealing	Amass treasures in heaven
Don't serve two masters	Not able to do it	Seek God's reign
Don't judge	Judged by own measure	Take log from own eye
Don't cast holy to pigs	Trampling/tearing	Trust Father

Be reconciled, avoid temptation, be reconciled martially, speak clearly, turn other cheek, love all, be devoted personally in your spiritual life of prayer, giving and fasting, eternal priorities, seek kingdom things here, watch yourself first, trust God.