

Discipleship Made "Easy"

What does one do to follow
Jesus? How does one act?

What's a Jesus follower
supposed to be like, anyway?

Jesus made “real” ...

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Ever had anyone like that
in your life that shaped
your understanding of who
Jesus is, what the Way of
Jesus is?

- ◆ We talk about making disciples... it's our mission!
- ◆ So...
 - ◆ A program?
 - ◆ A pathway?
 - ◆ A curriculum?
 - ◆ Study?

What is a disciple of
Jesus?

What are they like?

How does one become like
that?

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, told his disciples:

Luke 6:39 He also told them this parable:

“Can the blind lead the blind?
Will they not both fall into a pit? 40
The student is not above the
teacher, but everyone who is fully
trained will be like their teacher.

The goal of making disciples:
they will be like their teacher!
... imitation!

- To make a disciple, 1st
we must be a disciple.
- Training...more than just
knowledge.

A Rabbi gathers followers,
who live with, follow,
imitate...



A disciple of Jesus will be like
Jesus. Go where Jesus goes.
Do what Jesus does.

2 Cor. 3:18 And we all, who with
unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's
glory, are being transformed ***into his
image*** with ever-increasing glory,
which comes from the Lord, who is the
Spirit.

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John 12:26 Whoever serves me must
follow me; and where I am, my servant
also will be.

John 14:21 Whoever has my
commands and keeps them is the one
who loves me. The one who loves me
will be loved by my Father, and I too will
love them and show myself to them.”

We have substituted knowledge *about* Jesus for being *like* Jesus.

- Do we love others like Jesus? Is our heart broken for lost sinners like His is? Do we seek out sinners like He does? Is compassion and mercy and love what marks us out?

How did Jesus make disciples?

John 1:39 “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.



Matt. 4:19 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

Mark 3:14 He appointed twelve that they might *be with him* and that he might *send them out* to preach.

Luke 9:1 When Jesus had called the Twelve ***together***, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and ***he sent them out*** to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick...

10 When the apostles returned, ***they reported to Jesus*** what they had done. Then he took them ***with him*** and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida,

Jesus method?

➤ Come and see... Watch.

➤ Be with me... Watch and

Interact

➤ Instruct and send out... Do

➤ Report back... talk about it

➤ Commissioned... Carry it on

The Method: Modeling.
Example. Life. Practice.
Doing. ... Imitation.

Seeing is so
much more
than reading
about it...



“One way of understanding the story of Jesus is to say that after all those years of God speaking through prophets, the Creator's head shook in heavenly exasperation and God said, *“Look, I'll show you!”*”

Show us he did! So Jesus left heaven and was born a baby...”

The Way, the Life of Jesus
is more caught than Taught.



The curriculum? life itself.
The lessons come as life is
lived.

Mark 9:33 They came to Capernaum.
When he was in the house, he asked them,
“What were you arguing about on the road?”
34 But they kept quiet because on the way
they had argued about who was the
greatest.

35 Sitting down, Jesus called the
Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be
first must be the very last, and the servant of
all.”

Paul's method of Discipleship

1 These 2:7 Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, 8 so we cared for you.

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God ***but our lives as well.*** 9

Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. 11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

Paul explains in his next letter why he did what he did...

2 These 3:7 For you yourselves know how you ought to **follow our example**. We were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a **model for you to imitate**.

1 Cor. 4:16 Therefore I urge you to **imitate me**.

Luke 6:39 He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

Discipleship starts with you and I becoming like Jesus. Then, it's about others being with us and following our example.

How does that make you feel?

The truth is, we are already disciplining others. We are being watched. We are an example. The only question is: are we a good example or a bad one?

The Question: Are we a good example of Jesus, or a bad one?

Are we becoming like Jesus? Or are we just learning about Jesus?

Do we weep over those who push away from Jesus? Are we moved with compassion for the lost, the sinful? Are we “a friend of sinners?”

Your mission for the week, if you so choose to take it:

Spend the week watching Jesus. How? Read in the gospels, but put yourself in as if you were there, watching Jesus...

What is Jesus like? What makes him tick? How does he respond to those in sin?

The story of Dibby's dog...

...And when they learned to walk, they all walked... like her.