



Effective discipleship through academics, service and missions

Part 2 | **THE DISCIPLESHIP *DECISION**

*A conclusion or resolution reached after consideration.

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

BECOMING A DISCIPLE

1. When we become a believer it is Christ's desire that we mature and become wholehearted followers who are committed to following Christ at all cost. This is discipleship. The root word for disciple is discipline. Disciples who follow Jesus Christ discipline themselves and allow God's Word to guide their thoughts, behavior and decision making process.
2. **This is not an easy task.** Jesus was quite clear about the type of dedication it would require to be His disciple.
 - A. It requires a _____. We set the direction of our life with choices.
 - Matthew 7:13-14 *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*
 - Many choose the broad way (a flat, wide space without obstacles) but few choose the narrow way (a road with obstacles standing close by). This deals with discipleship not salvation.
 - B. It requires spiritual _____, always being aware of distractions.
 - Luke 9:57-62 to those who wanted to be disciples: *...But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*
 - Again, this was not salvation but a usability issue, a wholehearted follower with a single focus.
 - C. It requires a _____ to self denial.
 - Luke 14:25-33 *...In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.*
3. **Disciples are to be salt and light in society** (Matthew 5:13-16). As the church has exchanged passionate discipleship (Acts 2:42-47) for a more comfortable Christianity, our society has been affected in very dramatic ways over the last few decades and the inevitable has happened: sinners lead and lead us away from God.

- A. Notice the consequences of a nation turning from God as seen in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power.*
 - B. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 *For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*
 - C. This clearly describes the condition of our country today!
4. However, in every generation God raises a standard against the influence of Satan to compromise God's people! That standard is a call to wholehearted discipleship.

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

1. A disciple is someone who has believed on the Lord Jesus. This is belief that produces action.
 - A. Acts 16:29-31 *Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, ... (Also John 3:3; Romans 10:9-10)*
2. A disciple is someone who loves Christ _____ in life.
 - A. Luke 14:26 *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple."*
 - B. The command to maintain our first love from Revelation 2:4-5.
3. A disciple has _____ his or her ways and acknowledges Christ's Lordship in life.
 - A. Luke 14:27 *"And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."*
 - B. Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*
4. A disciple holds God's Word as the _____ of their life.
 - A. John 8:31 *"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."*
5. A disciple is committed to loving other Christian brothers and sisters with God's love.
 - A. John 13:34-35 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*
6. A disciple _____ and teaches others to follow and obey Christ with the same passion that they possess.

- A. Matthew 28:18-20 "... 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' teachings in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. Although many were present, this sermon seems to have been taught primarily to His disciples (Matthew 5:1). The actual location of the Sermon on the Mount is not certain. However, the traditional location is on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee between Capernaum and Gennesaret.



The central theme is summarized in Matthew 5:48, *Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.* The word "perfect" means to be full-grown as contrasted to childhood. In other words, It is a mature disciple who is reaching toward the goal for which he or she was created. Following are the main themes Jesus addresses in the Sermon on the Mount include the following..

1. The Sermon on the Mount is Christ's teaching on the _____ of disciples (5:1-2).
 - A. His disciples came to Him and He began teaching them...
2. Discipleship deals with deeper Truth, responsibility and eternal reward (5:3-12).
 - A. The Beatitudes teach the idea that happiness is not based upon worldly circumstances but on Divine conditions, a foundational understanding for disciples. To dig deeper, go to the Discipleship Foundations page at discipleshipdevelopment.org and click on "The Beatitudes."
3. We have the responsibility to influence our society for the Kingdom (5:13-16).
 - A. Salt (a lifestyle that permeates and flavors our society) and light (declarative in our words and actions).
4. Christ fulfills the Law and gives us the ability to overcome the _____ and motivation of sin through the power of the Spirit (5:17-48).
 - A. Murder/anger, adultery/lust, marriage/divorce, oaths, going the extra mile and loving our enemies.
5. Jesus gave us a pattern for an effective life of prayer and fasting (6:1-18).
 - A. The five parts of the disciple's prayer pattern: praise, priorities, provision, pardon and power.
 - B. Pharisaism - giving, praying and fasting to be seen as having a greater spirituality.
6. As disciples we are able to have an eternal perspective on temporal things (6:19-34).
 - A. Not serving the spirit of the world system (Mammon).
 - B. Not worrying but trusting God for all our provision, knowing He will provide when our focus is first His Kingdom.

7. Understanding the “Root Fruit” principle (7:1-23).
 - A. Judging others before we have judged ourselves.
 - B. The right motivation for asking with a determination to wait for it.
 - C. Many choose the broad way but few choose the narrow way (discipleship).
 - D. Ability to discern false prophets, their fruit, speech and lifestyle.
8. Building our life on _____ to Christ’s words (7:24-29).
 - A. Building our life on obedience to His words (in the Sermon on the Mount) insures success. Hearing His words but ignoring them brings disaster.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONVICTIONS

Daniel 1:8 *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank;...* (Also Daniel 3:16-18)

1. Convictions are Biblical principles we determine to follow, _____!
They are essential to who we are and what we become.
 - A. Daniel 3:16-18 The Hebrew men determined not to bow. Their decision was not based on whether or not God would deliver them from the fiery furnace, but on a conviction to not compromise their faith in God!
 - B. Joshua 24:15, 25-28 *“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*
2. A _____ changes with the situation when a conviction is not convenient.
 - A. It is not seen in daily living. We may talk it but we do not live it.
 - B. **Do you think that many of our weaknesses are simply the absence of Godly convictions?**
3. The book of Joshua chronicles the blessings of God upon the Israelites for their obedience in conquering the land. However, the book of Judges is a sad contrast to Joshua. Judges reveals Israel’s cycles of revival, decline, captivity and bondage, repentance, and then back to revival (Judges 2:6-19).
 - A. Israel’s 1st step to decline: They did not completely drive out their enemies as the Lord commanded them (Judges 1:17-36). Israel exterminated most of their enemies but allowed the more difficult ones to remain!
 - B. Israel’s 2nd step to decline: They forsook the Lord practiced the idolatry of the people (Judges 2:6-3:7). They intermarried with the people, a symbol of the mixing of worldly philosophies and attitudes within Christianity.
 - C. Israel’s 3rd step to decline: Peaceful co-existence eventually brought captivity in the form of oppressive bondage to their enemies as well as the judgment of God (Judges 6:1-6).
4. Yet God never failed to open His arms in love to His people when they repented from their wicked

ways and called upon His Name. (Judges 2:18) Through the 15 judges of Israel, God honored His promise to Abraham to protect and bless his offspring (Genesis 12:2-3). God's desire for Israel was to be victorious in battle and powerful against their enemies, not defeated and enslaved!

5. Israel was only as strong as their _____ to serve God whole-heartedly!

CONVICTIONS, THE FOUNDATIONAL STRENGTH FOR CHARACTER

Read the following basic Biblical convictions. Are they an active and noticeable part of our lives?

1. Jesus Christ is Lord over _____ area of my life. (Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 6:10; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18)
2. Whether I fully understand it or not, the _____ Bible is the inspired Word of God and the final authority for life. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)
3. I am a member of Christ's Body, the Church, and I must not forsake the assembling together of God's people. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
4. My actions must not weaken the scriptural convictions or understanding of another Christian. (Romans 14:19-21)
5. Because my life is directed by how I think, my thoughts must be set on the things of God. (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 12:34-35; Colossians 3:1-4)
6. My body is the _____ of God and must not be defiled by the lusts (sinful behavior) of the world. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
7. I am a witness to others of the things God has done in my life and I am to make disciples of all nations as Jesus has commanded us. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)



Can you list other personal convictions with corresponding Scripture references?

ASSIGNMENT

1. Go to our website (discipleshipdevelopment.org) and on the Foundations page:
 - A. Read "The Beatitudes." Use this topic and journal on what God's Spirit is saying to you.
 - B. Then pray through the "Prayer for Cleansing and Renewal"
 - C. Read the "5 Steps of Developing Convictions"
2. Do your daily devotions, Weekly Timesheet and connect with your accountability partner(s)
3. Memorize Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

ANSWERS - DISCIPLESHIP DECISION

choice

focus

commitment

first

forsaken

standard

trains

lifestyle

root

obedience

no matter what

preference

conviction

every

entire

temple

WEEKLY TIME SHEET *...redeeming the time... Ephesians 5:16*

1. Name _____ Date _____

2. My accountability partners are _____

3. Write the assigned Scripture memory verse from memory below before class. (Journal on the back, be brief and specific.)

4. Comments

Check each box below as you do the activity for that day.

ACTIVITIES	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI
Personal prayer time							
Bible reading & journaling							
Lesson reading (Including online)							
Fasting							
Scripture memorization							
Sunday AM & Wednesday PM							
Accountability meeting							
Volunteer service (specify below)							
I've invited a new person to church							