



2 • THE DISCIPLESHIP DECISION

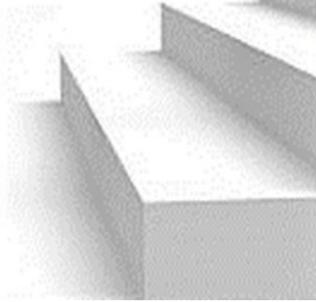
A life-altering decision that is based on faith and understanding (Luke 14:25-30).

Key Scripture — Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.* (Galatians 2:20)

1. **The two important steps of discipleship.** See the illustration on the next page.
2. **A decision** is a determination, conclusion, or resolution arrived at after consideration. (Web.)
 - A. The root word is to _____ that which is unnecessary. Discipleship begins with a resolute decision to serve the Master in our life in spite of what may come as a result of that decision.
3. _____ Although Matthew 7:13-14 is at times referred to salvation, it is actually describing the challenges of the disciplined life. Because the Sermon on the Mount was directed towards disciples, every aspect, therefore, speaks to the life and disciplines of a disciple.
 - A. Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter by the narrow (confined, restricted) gate; for wide is the gate and broad (flat, spread out) is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*
 - B. The disciplined life is narrow and literally strewn with obstacles and pressures and is contrary to the broad (smooth) way that most people tend to choose. This is an important principle we *must* understand and for which we must be prepared. See Luke 14:25-33.

Three important words...

4. Discipleship requires a _____. Discipleship is *choosing* the more difficult path, knowing it leads to life.
 - A. 1 Kings 18:21 *And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.*
 - B. Joshua 24:15 *...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve,... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*



THE FIRST STEP is the surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Our will must bow to His in defined and open commitment.

THE SECOND STEP is the development of Biblical convictions which we follow without compromise. It is our heart and will fully committed to God's principles revealed in His Word, the Bible.

- C. Do you believe that we literally set the direction of our life with choices? Explain.
5. Discipleship requires spiritual _____, always being aware of distractions that can, and will, cause us to delay or divert our decision to follow Him and grow in our Divine calling.
- A. Luke 9:62 ...*But Jesus said to (those who wanted to be disciples), "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."* (Luke 14:27)
- Again, this was not salvation but a usability issue, a wholehearted follower with a single focus.
6. Discipleship requires personal _____.
- A. Luke 14:25-33 ...*In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.* (Galatians 2:20)

Convictions versus preferences...

7. A **conviction** is a Biblical principle we determine to follow, _____!
Convictions define our commitment and are essential to who we are and what we can become. It is something about which we are absolutely convinced.
- A. Key Scripture — Read Daniel 3:14-30 "*...our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.*"...
8. A **preference** changes with the situation when a conviction is not convenient. Also, when a conviction is seen in public but is not lived out in our private life, it is a preference.
- A. Much of Israel's history in the Old Testament (in particular the book of the Judges) reveals that they were only as strong as their *conviction* to serve God whole-heartedly. Because of their lack of determination to serve God, they could not remain victorious over their enemies!
- B. Do you think that many of *our* weaknesses are simply the absence of Godly convictions?
9. **1 Corinthians 16:13-14** *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.* This powerful Scripture reveals what every believer can experience when we are guided by strong, Biblical convictions.

OVERVIEW OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



1. The Sermon On the Mount is the title given to Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. The traditional location is on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee between Capernaum and Gennesaret.
 - A. Although many others were present, Jesus seems to have had His disciples as the primary recipients of the sermon. Matthew 5:1-2 *...and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying...*
2. The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' teaching on the lifestyle of disciples, bringing them to spiritual maturity. 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 infancy and childhood, having reached the goal for that which he/she was created. In other words, a mature disciple.
 - A. Discipleship deals with **deeper Truth, responsibility and eternal reward** (5:1-12).
 - The Beatitudes (on the following pages) teach that happiness is not based upon circumstances but on Divine conditions, a foundational understanding for disciples.
 - B. We have the **responsibility** to influence our society for the Kingdom (5:13-16). Salt (producing growth and "disinfecting") and light (our words and actions as declarative).
 - C. Christ fulfills the Law and gives us the ability to **overcome** the root and motivation of sin and wrong behavior through the power of the Spirit (5:17-48).
 - Read Galatians 5:16-18. The battle in our lives is not just against the devil but, more importantly, it is a clash between our own flesh nature and the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit. This passage is a powerful pattern for spiritual victory.
 - D. Jesus gave us a pattern for an effective life of **prayer** and fasting (6:1-18).
 - The five parts of the disciple's prayer pattern are praise, priorities, provision, pardon and power, and back to praise. (QR Code). This is a prayer God will ALWAYS answer!
 - E. As disciples we are able to have an **eternal perspective** on temporal things (6:19-34).
 - Not serving the spirit of the world system (Mammon).
 - Overcoming worry by trusting God for all our provision, knowing He will provide when our focus is on His Kingdom priorities.
 - F. Understanding and discerning the **root-fruit** principle (7:1-23).
 - Judging others before we have judged ourselves.
 - The right motivation for asking with an accompanying determination to wait for it.
 - Many choose the broad way but few choose the narrow way (discipleship).
 - Ability to discern false prophets, their fruit, speech and lifestyle.
 - G. Building our life on **obedience** to Christ's words (7:24-29).
 - This important parable summarizes all Christ taught in the Sermon. The "rock" in verses 24 and 27, is obedience to (hearing and doing) the message He shared earlier in the sermon. The one who builds his or her life on the teachings and principles Christ



taught and practices them will be able to withstand the storms of life.

3. **A deeper look at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-10.** The Beatitudes begin with the expression, “Blessed are...” The idea here is that of a “blissful” state *not* based upon earthly circumstances but on **Divine conditions**.

- A. Blessed are the **poor** (ptochos) **in spirit**, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.
- One who has nothing and is completely empty, who realizes that they can never achieve salvation on their own and who put their complete faith and trust in Christ.
 - In Luke 15:21, the prodigal son *became* poor in spirit by realizing his sin and repenting. In Luke 18:10-14, the beggar was justified before God *because* of his humility.
- B. Blessed are they who **mourn** (pentheo), for they will be comforted.
- To grieve, to strike/beat the chest, an outward, Jewish sign of inward grief.
 - In Nehemiah 1 we see the sorrow of Nehemiah over the result of the sins of Israel.
- C. Blessed are the **meek** (prautes), for they will inherit the earth.
- The word refers to a strong and powerful horse or an ox that has been trained and disciplined. This is a person who is controlled by God in thought, word, and action.
 - Moses was the meekest man above all men (Numbers 12:3); it is the meek (humble) whom God guides in His way (Psalm 25:9).
- D. Blessed are they who **hunger and thirst** for Righteousness (dikaiosune), for they will be filled.
- Righteousness is a life style that is in conformity to the will of God. It focuses on virtue, being morally right as opposed to lawlessness.
- E. Blessed are the **merciful** (eleemon), for they shall be shown mercy.
- Compassionate, involving the heart, mind, and action. Jesus had compassion on the crowds and healed and fed them (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34).
- F. Blessed are the **pure** (katharos) **in heart**, for they will see God.
- Something cleansed by shaking it as in a sieve. It is free from impurities and other contaminates (Psalm 24:3-4).
 - Mark 7:20-23 states that every unclean thing comes from the heart, the origin of our emotions and will. Psalm 119:9 states “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word.”
- G. Blessed are the **peacemakers** (eirenopoios), for they will be called sons of God.
- One who makes peace in others having first received peace with God in his own heart. They are peace makers, not peace keepers. (Note the illustration on page 6 in the online notes)
 - Peace with God (Romans 5:1), the peace of God (Philippians 4:7), the God of Peace (Romans 16:10).
- H. Blessed are those who are **persecuted**, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.
- The blessing is for those who are being persecuted not for doing wrong or evil acts but for doing right. (Acts 7:54-60).

Answers — cut away | Prepared | choice | focus | sacrifice | no matter what

FOR NEXT WEEK...

1. **Scan the QR Codes below** — QR code 1 is the main course. QR code 2 is for the lesson notes. QR code 3 are the exegetical sheets (Bible study sheets).
2. **Read lesson 3, Understanding the Bible** (Becoming a disciplined student of God’s Word) for next week. Be sure to check out the accompanying links.
3. **Look at the Bible study sheets** found as a link on the main course, under lesson 3 (QR code 3) Familiarize yourself with the format of Bible Study Sheets.
4. **Memory Verse** — 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* (Alternate verse: 2 Timothy 2:15)
5. **Use the Weekly Time Sheet** to track your activities. Use it to journal what God is speaking to you. Be sure to keep it brief.
6. **Meet with your accountability group.**

Do the best you can and we’ll see you next week. Pastors Jack and Jane.



QR Code 1
Main Course



QR Code 2
Lesson 3



QR Code 3
Bible Study Sheets

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

1. Name _____ Date _____
2. My accountability partners are _____

3. Journal on the back.
4. Before class, write the memory verse below.

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

ACTIVITIES	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
Personal Prayer Time							
Bible Reading							
Lesson Reading							
Fasting							
Scripture Memorization							
Journaling							
Sunday AM							
Accountability Meeting							
Volunteer Service (specify below)							