

Living the Life of Christ's Disciple

Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are beginning a series on *Living the Life of Christ's Disciple: What should our lives look like?* We will over the next few weeks be discussing the different attributes of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Many today do not give much thought to what it means to follow Christ other than they have said some prayer in their past, and they feel assured of going to Heaven when they die. Our view of discipleship and what it means to follow Christ in the modern church tends to be on the very shallow side of Christ's recruitment policies according to Scripture, and the examples that have come before us down through Church history. We need to change this. Listen to what Paul writes when writing to the Corinthian church about the need for spiritual growth.

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ¹

The writer of Hebrews states,

Therefore, let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ²and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³And this we will do if God permits. ²

We must go on deeper into what it means to follow Christ, but we must first consider what it means to follow Him. So, let's turn our attention to a couple examples of Christ inviting His first followers to follow Him.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (1 Co 3:1–3). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Heb 6:1–3). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

Mark 1:16-20

¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. ³

Mark 2:13-17

¹³ He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁵ as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." ⁴

I. Follow Jesus

Deuteronomy 31:8

⁸ It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed⁵

Charles Spurgeon

"You cannot be Christ's servant if you are not willing to follow him, cross and all. What do you crave? A crown? Then it must be a crown of thorns if you are to be like him. Do you want to be lifted up? So, you shall, but it will be upon a cross."

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Mk 1:16–20). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Mk 2:13–17). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Dt 31:8). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”⁶

Matthew 4:21-22

²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ⁷

A.W. Tozer

If I am to wholly follow the Lord Jesus Christ, I must forsake everything that is contrary to Him.

II. Fix Your Eyes upon Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.⁸

Lee Iacocca

The main thing is keeping the main thing, the main thing.

⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Mt 16:21–23). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Mt 4:21–22). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

⁸ [The Holy Bible: New International Version](#) (Heb 12:1–2). (1984). Zondervan.

Hebrews 6:19-20

¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek⁹

III. Faithfulness Out of Love

1 John 4:19-21

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. ¹⁰

John 15:1-6

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ¹¹

Job 33:31

Pay attention, Job, listen to me; be silent, and I will speak. ¹²

Psalms 46:10

Be still and know that I am God

⁹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Heb 6:19–20). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

¹⁰ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (1 Jn 4:18–21). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

¹¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Jn 15:1–6). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

¹² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Job 33:31). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

IV. Flee from Sin

1 John 3:6

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him¹³

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ¹⁴

Rick Warren

Every time you defeat a temptation, you become more like Jesus!

V. Foundational Living on the Theology of God's Word

Kevin Vanhoozer

Contrary to the popular conception, theology is not an arcane science (only understood by a few) or academic compartment, like the other -ologies, whose field a scholar progressively masters by processing more and more information (or by earning higher degrees). To know *what is in Christ* takes much more than adding a few items to one's storehouse of knowledge. Yes, theology concerns the knowledge of God, but what it yields is not more data but greater understanding—of God, and of everything else in relation to God.¹⁵

2 Timothy 3:12-17

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and

¹³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (1 Jn 3:6). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

¹⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Ro 6:1–4). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

¹⁵ Vanhoozer, K. J. (2015). [In the Evangelical Mood: The Purpose of the Pastor-Theologian](#). In *The Pastor as Public Theologian: Reclaiming a Lost Vision* (p. 112). Baker Academic.

being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. ¹⁶

Billy Graham

When we come to Christ, we're no longer the most important person in the world to us; Christ is. Instead of living only for ourselves, we have a higher goal: to live for Jesus.

John Flavel

The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering and the most comfortable way of dying.

Martin Luther

Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason. I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.

VI. Fishing for Men

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world in this way that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him.

John McArthur

You are the only Bible some unbelievers will ever read, and your life is under scrutiny every day. What do others learn from you? Do they see an accurate picture of your God?

¹⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (2 Timothy 3:12–17). (2016). Crossway Bibles.

Charles Spurgeon

To be a soul winner is the happiest thing in this world. And with every soul you bring to Jesus Christ, you seem to get a new heaven here upon earth.

CONCLUSION:

To put all six of these together we begin to see what a disciple's life in Christ looks like. Does this describe your life today? If not, then repentance is necessary so that you may experience the joy of Jesus.

To follow Christ is no half-hearted investment. It is one that is demanding, convicting, encouraging, and at times filled with despair, but in the end, it is to be joined in love with the One who made us, saved us, and will resurrect us into His good world again. Why do we follow Jesus? Because He holds the words of life and the door to eternity.

C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*

“Now the whole offer which Christianity makes is this: that we can, if we let God have His way, come to share in the life of Christ. If we do, we shall then be sharing a life which was begotten, not made, which always existed and always will exist. Christ is the Son of God. If we share in this kind of life we also shall be sons of God. We shall love the Father as He does and the Holy Ghost will arise in us. He came to this world and became a man in order to spread to other men the kind of life He has — by what I call "good infection." Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else.”

May this be true in all of our lives who profess Christ as Lord.