

DISCIPLESHIP

In the Old Testament a disciple refers to one instructed (Isa 50:4 “learned”) or taught (Isa 54:13).

Disciple (3101) meaning:

Strong’s – learner, i.e. pupil.

Louw and Nida lexicon – to be instructed. A person who learns from another by instruction.

The Complete Word Study Dictionary – NT:3101 – means more in the NT than a mere pupil or learner. It is an adherent who accepts the instruction given to him and makes it his rule of conduct.

An example of this would be the disciples of John the Baptist (Matt 14:12) or the disciples of the Pharisees (Mat 22:16).

One who stands in relation to another as a pupil and is instructed by that person.

Luke 6:40 “A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.” NKJV

Matt 10:25 “Students are to be like their teacher” NLT

The Scribes were teachers and had pupils. Jesus was called rabbi (teacher) and taught, but He taught with authority that was not seen before in Israel.

Matt 7:28-29

28 “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” KJV

I. THE GREAT COMMISSION

Mark 16:15 “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Matt 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” NKJV

(In the Greek the word is teach or make pupils of all nations)

The end result of preaching the gospel was to make disciples. The act by which commitment to discipleship was to be made was baptism.

A. Baptism is to be identification with Christ in death, burial and resurrection.

Rom 6:4; Col 2:12

B. The call of God

1. The general call of God (the invitation)

Luke 5:32; 1 Pet 2:9

2. The collective call

a. Called to be sanctified (1 Thes 4:7)

Called to be saints 1 Cor 1:2 (pure; set apart to God)

Called unto fellowship with Jesus (1 Cor 1:9)

Called unto liberty (Gal 5:13)
Called unto his kingdom and glory (1 Thes 2:12)
Walk worthy of that call (Eph 4:1)

3. The specific call
 - a. Make an ark (Gen 6:14)
 - b. God called to Moses from the burning bush to deliver Israel (Ex 3:4,10)
 - c. Paul was called to be an apostle (Rom 1:1)
 - d. Our personal call whatever that may be
According to His purpose (Rom 8:28; 2 Pet 1:9)

Parenthetical note: The great commission from Jesus was that the church would reproduce itself. The current estimate of evangelical churches in the United States that are not growing or are in decline is 70 to 80%. Approximately four thousand churches close every year in North America alone. The church is not reproducing itself in making disciples.

Jesus did not reach the multitudes with programs, but with men who were discipled and could bear witness to Christ and reproduce themselves in others.

II. FOLLOWING

What is a follower?

- A. Matt 4:19 "Then He said to them, "Follow Me" NKJV
"follow" is a combination of two Greek words (Strong's 1205 and 3694).
 1. Come here (1205)
 2. After (3694)Or we could say, come after me (Jesus).
- B. Luke 5:27 "After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." NKJV
"follow" is Strong's (190) meaning – to be in the same way with.
Thayer's Lexicon (190) – to become his disciple.

Mark 6:1; Mark 10:32; Luke 5:28; Luke 18:28; John 10:27

Following will be the first and most necessary element on one's journey to become a disciple. One cannot truly follow the Lord without learning, accepting, and adhering to the word and instruction He gives. The mark of discipleship in John was, John 20:15 "whom are you seeking", 1:38 "what do you seek"

III. REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A DISCIPLE

A. They were to be with Him

Mark 3:14 "Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him" NKJV
The first order was that they were to be with Him, not do first. This would be the place that they would begin to learn.

Acts 4:13 “they had been with Jesus”

After the Christian spends some time learning, they are to continue to learn as they do.

Remember, Jesus spent approximately 30 years learning from the Father before He functioned in ministry for approximately 3 ½ years.

B. Jesus sent them out

Mark 6:7

Acts 1:1 “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach” NKJV

There is an important order, Jesus did and taught. His actions (manner of living) and teaching were in agreement.

C. The basic requirement

There must be a renouncing of all that he has.

Luke 14:33 “So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” RSV

Luke 14:33 “So then, any of you who does not forsake (renounce, surrender claim to, give up, say good-bye to) all that he has cannot be My disciple.” AMP

Luke 14:33 “So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.” NLT

The requirement is to renounce one way of life and to begin another way of life.

The Lord Jesus wants first place in the heart. Nothing one owns can come before the Lord if we want to be His disciples. This becomes a heart issue. Many a poor person has the desire for riches in their heart.

D. Other important requirements

1. Hate father and mother, wife and children, etc.

Luke 14:26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” NKJV

This stipulation has made many stumble. How can Jesus say to hate when He also says to even love our enemies. This can be illustrated through the Strong’s definition of the word hate - to love less.

If one does not love less their family, i.e. if they put their family in a higher position in their heart than the Lord, they cannot be Jesus’ disciple.

2. Whoever does not bear his cross and come after me

Luke 14:27 “And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” NKJV

- a. The pronoun “*his*” is in the Greek translation. That means that there is something specific to the individual. The cross represented the person’s death. A dead man can no longer express anything related to his life here on earth. So too the call to discipleship will demand a death to the old life and carrying the new life.
- b. Self-denial. This is not a popular teaching but necessary if the Christian is to become a disciple. The Christian will be challenged by the Lord to place aside

what they may want to do for what He may ask. Not that the individual loses their personality, but that their identity becomes identification with Christ.

- c. Luke 9:23 states the same but with the added word “daily.” To take up his cross daily.

Many times it will be necessary to daily “take up his cross” that is to say; we may have to deny what self wants and allow it to die.

- 3. Luke 9:24 if anyone will save their life they will lose it

This makes no sense to the natural mind. Only as one does this, the truth grips them and the spiritual reality of discipleship becomes known.

John 12:23-26

IV. DISOBEDIENCE AND OBEDIENCE

A. Disobedience

1. Deut 28:58, 62 Disobedience causes loss.
v62 “few” the Israelites would become few in number. This literally means that their numbers would decrease, but the thought is that disobedience would bring them to a lesser state.
2. Not obeying the commandments of the Lord brings the curse.
Deut 11:28 “curse”
Curse – dictionary def. - Something to bring misfortune to another
Curse – Hebrew def. – the absence of a blessing; lowering to a lesser state.
A good example of disobedience producing a lesser state is seen in Genesis with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. (Eph 2:2)
3. Disobedience shows a heart condition that is unwilling to submit to the authority of God.
Jer 17:23 the people opposed their own spiritual health.
Deut 31:27 Moses tries to show the people their hearts.
4. With all disobedience the main element to see is that the desire of the flesh is placed above the will of God. (Rom 8:5, 8; Gal 5:17)
5. The Christian should be aware that one of the things that they must war against is the natural tendency to disobey God. (2 Cor 10:5-6)
6. Disobedience results in judgment. This is graphically seen in the book of Judges.
7. Even though the Lord warns against disobedience, some go down that path and suffer the consequences. (Gen 19:17, 26; Ex 30:9, Lev 10:1-2)
8. Disobedience has a final punishment
2 Thes 1:7-9

B. Obedience

Obedience simply means to carry out the word or will of another person, principally the will of God. This word could be in written form (the Bible), spoken form, or communicated in some other way.

Obedience is a crucial ingredient in becoming a disciple.

1. In the Old Testament, blessing and fellowship with God was centered upon obedience.
Gen 22:18
2. Being God's special people is contingent upon obedience.
Ex 19:5; Deut 4:20; 7:6, 11; Deut 14:2-3; 26:18
3. Obedience is more important than sacrifice.
1 Sam 15:22
4. Obedience is elementary.
Eph 6:1; Col 3:20, 22
5. Jesus' example of obedience to the Father.
Phil 2:8
 - a. Through the obedience of Jesus, salvation became available to those who obey Him.
Heb 5:9; Rom 5:19
6. God's blessing comes to the Christian through the means of obedience.
Deut 11:27; 1 Pet 1:13-16; Mat 14:22, 25

Without obedience one cannot become a disciple. Without obedience there is no deeper walk with God. Without obedience there will not be any deeper understanding of truth, or a closer walk with the Lord.

V. WALKING IN THE LIGHT

A. God is light

1 John 1:5

B. The Christian can choose to walk in darkness

1 John 1:6; 1 John 2:11; John 12:46

C. The disciple is to walk in the light

1. Take heed to the light
Luke 11:34-35; 2 Pet 1:19
2. Walk in the light
John 12:35, 46; Prov 4:18; Rom 13:12; Eph 5:8
3. Walking in the light is the basis of fellowship
1 John 1:7

John 8:12 "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." NKJV

1 John 2:10 "He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him." NKJV

VI. IN CHRIST

(Disciples are made in this place)

Ps 91:1 "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." NKJV

"dwells" – Strong's – to sit down, to remain

Vine's – to inhabit; in nomadic life, meaning "to live in a tent."

(This Hebrew word is a participle which means it is to be a continual action).

A. Being in Him is fulfilled through redemption

2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." NKJV

At initial salvation we became new creations and were placed in Christ.

1 Cor 1:30; Eph 1:7

B. Can the Christian move out from the place of being in Him?

1. 1 John 1:5 states that "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all"
2. 1 John 2:11 states "he that hates his brother is in darkness"
3. John says that a Christian can walk in darkness 1 John 1:6
4. Paul writes to the Philippians, Phil 3:8-9 and speaks of himself, "...that I may win Christ, and be found in Him..."

Phil 3:8-9

"I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith" NKJV

Phil 3:9 "*be found*" The Greek verb form means that some uncertainty exists. It is possible but not necessarily a sure thing.

Paul placed two conditions upon his being "found in Him."

1. V8 "I count all things loss"
2. V8 "I have suffered the loss of all things"

Col 2:6 "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" NKJV

The Greek verb "*walk*" is in the command form.

If the Christian is commanded to walk in Christ, then it must be possible to not walk in Him.

1 John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

"abide" = to stay in a given place or relationship; to remain.

The Greek verb "abide" is a command.

If being and remaining in Christ were automatic, it would not necessitate a command.

1 John 2:6 "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

The Christian who claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.

John 13:15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

If the Christian is not walking as the Lord instructs, their abiding in Christ is questionable.

C. What does it mean to be in Him?

To be in Him means that the Christian will have to become, to some degree, of the same character as Christ. This entails being changed.

There is to be a slow transformation in the heart that can only take place as the believer abides in Christ.

Rom 8:29; 1 John 3:2

1 John 2:28 "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." NKJV

The Greek verb translated "abide" is imperative mood, which is the command form.

1 John 2:28, the reason these individuals would not be ashamed is:

- 1) Because they abide in Him.
- 2) Because there is a change taking place in them.

D. John says that we, as Christians, can know that we are in Christ.

1 John 2:5 "But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him." NKJV

"keeps" In Greek this verb is a present participle. That is to say, that the Christian is too presently, continually keep His word.

Keeping His word and what He commands brings the knowledge to the Christian that he is in Christ. (Also, see 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:15)

E. We are to be in Him and stay in Him.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." NKJV

Col 2:6 "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" NKJV

Nothing of any eternal value will be found outside of Christ. There may be other interests and pursuits but none that will produce spiritual value.

Col 3:3 "For ye are dead (a condition), and your life is hid with Christ in God."

The condition is that the Christian is to be dead to habitual sin and their old life.

VII. SHEPHERDS AND DISCIPLING

The basic meaning of a shepherd is one who tends sheep. Figuratively this word is used to represent the relation between God and His people. Some words from the Bible that convey this thought is, shepherd, pastor, feed, keep, carry, guide, etc. Both the Old and New Testament convey the idea of being over and caring (according to God's heart, Jer 3:15) for those entrusted to the shepherd.

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." NKJV

To give (to lay down) His life for the sheep shows the absence of self-centeredness.

A. Without authority and submission there can be no discipling.

1. Authority

Rule given by God to provide for the spiritual welfare of the people.

a. Those who are not under authority have no right to exercise authority

Luke 7:7-8

b. Those in authority are to be as servants

Mat 20:25-28; Mark 10:42-45

Those who rule are not to force their authority. Hence for the Christian to be ruled they must do it through voluntary submission.

We are to submit, not because those in authority are always right, but because they are in authority and represent the authority that comes from God (Rom 13:1-5).

c. Christ rules through delegated authority

John 13:20 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." NKJV

Eph 4:11 "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers" NKJV

1 Cor 12:28

2. Submission

Submit - to yield to the power and authority of another.

First and foremost we are to be submitted to God.

1. Submission to God

James 4:7

2. Submission of the Christian to authority in the assembly
Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:5
3. Submission of wives to their husbands
Eph 5:22, 24; Col 3:18; 1 Pet 3:1; Titus 2:5
4. Submission of servants to masters
Eph 6:5-8
5. Submission of younger to older
1 Pet 5:5
6. Submission of Christians to government
Rom 13:1-5; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Pet 2:13-14
7. Submission to one another
Eph 5:21; 1 Pet 5:5b

For these to function properly there is to be voluntary submission. Submission is tested when we are confronted with something that we would not normally do.

Overseer – episkopos – one who is responsible for caring for the spiritual concerns of those in the church. To look or watch.

Acts 20:28; Phil 1:1 “bishops” overseers; 1 Tim 3:2 must be blameless; Titus 1:7

Because of the position of leadership, the overseer is to see what others cannot.

B. Abuse of discipling (shepherding)

With any scripture there can be abuses. The fault does not lie with the scripture but with those who misapply principles that God has ordained for the benefit of the church.

The shepherding movement grew out from the Charismatic movement of the 1970’s. It was also called the discipleship movement.

Cautions related to shepherding:

1. No personal revelation or experience should take the place of scripture
2. Unbiblical obedience to leaders can result in misuse of authority
3. There can be an unhealthy submission to human leadership
4. Shepherding can have some cult-like qualities
(Manipulation, intimidation, control, etc.)
5. The movement relied upon those at the top (the five) to be spiritually responsible to each other for their spiritual health. This can be fine if it is maintained correctly, but it can lead to elitism.
6. This setup was duplicated in many churches and still exists today.
No major decisions were made without consulting the shepherd, which included marriage and career choices. This forced people to make the choice of obeying the authority of the shepherd or leaving the church.

Some identifying markers of a shepherding church:

- Authoritarian or control-oriented leadership
- Unquestioning loyalty and obedience to the shepherd
- Total submission without any question
- Conformity to their standards

- Discouragement of dissent
- The Christians major life decisions are to be taken to the shepherd – he sees, he knows, he understands and you don't, he is God's man, etc.
- The shepherd is never to be doubted nor questioned
- Spiritual manipulation and intimidation
- Isolationist attitudes
- Control over the membership
- Spiritual elitism
- Fear and intimidation for questioning leadership
(Scriptures on authority and submission can be used)
- Demanding blind obedience and submission
- Contradiction of teaching by others to maintain control
- The end result of a shepherding church is that it puts Christians in a position of submission to Christ and a personal shepherd or pastor. There is truth to this, but Christ never abuses His authority, whereas that cannot be said of all pastors.
- Twisting of the scriptures, be it intentional or unintentional, due to lack of careful reading, study, or not understanding textual context or reading the scripture in its historical and cultural context.
- Painful exit
- Shunning or encouragement to avoid those who have left the church

A shepherding church will rarely see, admit to, or believe it is moving toward cult-like activity, rather it is viewed as being scriptural and that it lines up with correct discipling methods.

1 Peter 5:1-3

1 "The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock" NKJV

v3 "being lords over" meaning of this Greek verb:

Strong's – control

Thayer's lexicon – to hold in subjection, to be master of, exercise lordship over

Louw and Nida lexicon – to subject someone to a superior force, to overpower

Although authority and submission are scriptural truths, they can be abused. The church has under-shepherds but Jesus Christ alone is the good shepherd, and the Christian's life direction is to come from Him. Our total trust is to be in Christ alone!

VIII. THE NATURE OF THE DISCIPLE

A. The decision to follow after Jesus (act of the will)

Mat 4:20; Mark 2:14

B. The manner of life – how the disciple lives

1 John 2:6; Col 2:6

C. The disciples lack of insight

1. Lack of insight is secondary to a pure heart
John 1:47; Mat 16:5-12; Mat 16:21-22; Mat 17:4
2. The disciple will eventually understand
John 12:16

D. The disciple will seek after truth

John 8:31

E. The disciple will give his life to follow

Mat 4:20

F. He will be used to minister to others

Mat 15:36

G. The disciple will discover the inward way

1. The narrow way (Leads to life)
Mat 7:13-14
v14 "narrow" The narrow way is not so much a place as it is a condition.
2. The Lord's concern is the inward man
1 Sam 16:7; Mark 7:20-21; Ps 51:6
3. The kingdom is within
Luke 17:21

Acts 4:13 "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."

H. Abiding is necessary

John 15:4-7; Ps 91:1; Rom 1:9 "serve with (in) my spirit"

I. The disciple is a witness

In the early church Christians often suffered and died for their faith. The word martyr soon became the word used to describe those who died. The Greek word for witness is the word martus or in English martyr.

A martyr is one who bears witness of their faith by their life or actions. To be a witness (martyr) does not necessarily mean that that one has to give his physical life. But one has to give their life to Christ to become the witness (martyr) the Lord desires.

Acts 1:8 "you shall be witnesses to Me..." NKJV

Acts 5:31-32

31 Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are His witnesses to these things..." NKJV

IX. HOW ARE DISCIPLES MADE

1. There must be a desire to be instructed in the way
Luke 18:28 (desire replaced what they had left behind)
2. Through association
Acts 4:13
Jesus called men to him and spent time with them.
There is to be time spent in discipling others.
3. Through example
 - a. What you say and do
John 13:15; 1 Pet 2:21
 - b. Acts 20:28 the order is:
 1. Take heed to yourselves
 2. Then to all the flock
 3. Feed the church

1 John 3:9 "Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him"
4. Through teaching
The meaning of the word "disciple" is – a learner. In order to learn something must be taught, hence the disciple will learn through being taught.
5. The purpose of teaching is impartation
Mark 8:31; 12:38 "teach" – to instruct.
John 17:8 "given" this word carries the thought of imparting.
6. Admonish – instruction as to correct behavior and belief
Col 3:16
7. Leave room for the disciple to make mistakes
Peter, James, and John - Luke 9:54-55
Luke 4:8; Mark 14:72
8. Love
 - a. Love is to be the basis for the discipling relationship
 - b. Love in action toward the disciple will have to endure
 - c. Love will be seen through the humility of the one who is discipling

X. THE DISCIPLE WILL HEAR AND RESPOND TO THE HEAVENLY CALLING

- A. Heb 3:1 We are "partakers of the heavenly calling"
This is the initial response to the Gospel that we all as Christians share.
- B. Heb 3:2 we are called to be faithful as Moses was faithful in all his house.
- C. Heb 3:6 Christ is Son over His own house, whose house we are "if" we are faithful and hold firm to the end.

- D. The disciple will respond to Jesus' lordship over them, become faithful and hold firm.

- E. The disciple will hear the Lord (Heb 3:7, 15) will not rebel (Heb 3:16a) rather they will obey (Heb 3:18).

- F. The heavenly calling is an invitation to go upward (Heb 3:1; Phil 3:14)
 - "heavenly" – above (Not just to heaven but to a way of life that results in a higher plain of living.
 - "calling" – invitation

 - 1. This call is heard by the individual
 - 2. The calling is confirmed by the Lord
 - 3. Response and cooperation with the Lord is necessary
 - a. There will be a supply from the Holy Spirit
Gal 3:5a
 - 4. Hearing the call will bring the desire to be Christ-like
Rom 8:28; 2 Cor 3:18
Gal 2:8 the Lord will work effectively
 - 5. The work of the Spirit will be against the flesh and upon the disciple
Gal 5:17; Rom 8:4, 13-14
 - 6. The disciple must sow to the Spirit and not to the flesh in order to receive the life the Lord wants to give
Gal 6:8
 - 7. Time is needed for the disciple to spiritually develop
1 Pet 2:2-3 "tasted" we are to taste and see that the Lord is good.

We are being called to a higher state of being that will bring an inner quality of richness in Christ that we did not have before.

XI. THE TRUE DISCIPLE WILL FUNCTION UNDER KINGDOM PRINDIPLES

Some kingdom principles:

- **If you save your life you will lose it (Mat 16:25; Luke 9:24)**
To follow Jesus is to say no to oneself. The disciple must say no to his life to truly find the life that is hidden in Christ.

- **Wisdom is with the lowly (Prov 11:2)**
The low place is despised but it will be the place the disciple will find wisdom.

- **To become rich you must become poor (2 Cor 8:9)**

Jesus leaves this pattern for the disciple to follow. He chose poverty, i.e. He made Himself of no reputation and humbled Himself. This heart attitude will bring spiritual riches that can be obtained no other way.

- **Become weak to become strong (2 Cor 12:10)**

As Paul said, he was weak in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. We can also be weak through our circumstances, but we are to look away from our circumstances to Christ. The strengthening begins as Christ becomes our focus not the circumstances.

- **Death will bring life (John 12:24-25)**

The seed that is to fall into the ground is not our money. The increase is not the 100-fold return because one gives of their finances. The seed that is to fall into the ground is our life on this earth, if it dies, it will bring an increase.

In the natural the process is:

- A seed is planted and brings increase
- Wheat grows and matures
- Others take the wheat
- Flour is made
- The result is that bread is made that feeds many

The result of the Christian's life falling into the ground and dying will be the bread of their life (the new life) will feed others. The increase will be the inner quality of life that others are brought into.

- **To find your life you must lose your life (Mat 10:39)**

This does not make sense. That is why many do not move toward becoming a disciple. It is not easy to allow the present life to be lost in order to find this new life that cannot be seen. Faith in Jesus' words will be sufficient to move one from the old life to find the new. As the old life is lost (left behind) something new begins to take form and you find your life.

- **The way up is the way down (Luke 14:11)**

The true disciple will allow the Lord to humble them (take them down) so that Jesus may be lifted up in their life.

- **You will reap what you sow (Gal 6:7-8)**

To continue on as a disciple it is important to sow to the Spirit. The Lord will teach us how to walk in the Spirit and live in the Spirit.

The disciple will have the desire to sow good seed.

- **Loss is gain (Phil 3:7-8)**

This is incredibly illogical. Only as this principle is entered into can the Lord shine the light upon this kingdom principle. The more one loses their life the more light is gained and the more riches are realized.

- **To become great you must become a servant (Mat 20:26-27)**

The focus is not to be upon becoming great, rather it is to be upon becoming a servant to all.

As a servant the Lord will see to it that gifted men of God will be used to build in the disciple, e.g. Elijah and Elisha.

These kingdom principles at work within the Christian will be the true test of a disciple. Because one says they are a disciple, or believes they are a disciple, does not necessarily mean that they are. Moving in kingdom principles will testify that that one is a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Jesus commanded his disciples, to make disciples of all nations in order to duplicate His character in others. Adhering and attachment to the teacher or leader will be the God ordained way the Lord will use to bring the desired result, which is a learner who has learned and one who has become Christ-like. Hence, a disciple of Jesus Christ is made.