

The Discippler's Ministry

What is Discipleship? Discipleship, ultimately, is serving God and others. Jesus came serving others with a Godly humility and zeal. If your desire to be a discipler has at its root an unholy desire to be elevated above others or to be applauded by others, you had best wait until you are ready to relinquish any ambitions for selfish glory, and be willing to don the garbs of a servant, for such is the person Christ seeks. As Dr. Howard Hendricks observed, "In God's Kingdom, the way up is down."

Servant Leadership

When confronted by a mother's request to elevate her two sons to prominent positions in His coming Kingdom, Jesus told His disciples the following.

- 25b "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them,
and *their* great men exercise authority over them.
- 26 "It is not this way among you,
but whoever wishes to become great among you
shall be your servant,
27 and whoever wishes to be first among you
shall be your slave;
28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve,
and to give His life a ransom for many."

Memorize 

Matthew 20:25-28

- ✓ Underline what 'the rulers' and 'great men' do.
- ✓ Circle Jesus' teaching concerning this.
- ✓ Underline who shall be 'your servant' and 'slave'.
- ✓ Underline the reason Jesus came.

1. Explain Jesus' statement in verse 25? _____

2. How does Jesus view greatness and ambition? _____

3. From Jesus' teaching, describe Christian leadership. _____



Daniel 2:12
Matthew 23:8-10
Luke 22:24-27

Modeling Servanthood

Jesus modeled humility. He lived to serve and make those around Him whole. A look at His ministry reveals His passion, priorities and power. In His wake are seen the effects of His life on a sinful world. The blind saw, the lame walked and the demonized were set free! Observe Jesus' ministry below.

- 40 While the sun was setting,
 all those who had any *who were* sick with various diseases
 brought them to Him;
and laying His hands on each one of them,
 He was healing them.
- 41 Demons also were coming out of many, shouting,
 "You are the Son of God!"
But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak,
 because they knew Him to be the Christ.
- 42 When day came,
 Jesus left and went to a secluded place;
 and the crowds were searching for Him,
 and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them.
- 43 But He said to them,
 "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also,
 for I was sent for this purpose."
- 44 So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:40-44

- ✓ Underline *who were* being brought to Jesus. (v 40)
- ✓ Circle what Jesus did with them. (v 40)
- ✓ Circle what were coming out of many. (v 41)
- ✓ Circle what Jesus would not allow them to do. (v 41)
- ✓ Underline *why*. (v 41)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus did when day came. (v 42)
- ✓ Underline what the people were trying to do. (v 42)
- ✓ Underline what Jesus said to them. (v 43)
- ✓ Circle what He kept on doing. (v 44)

1. What is the significance of Christ's healing ministry? _____

2. Why didn't Christ want the demons to testify to His true identity? _____

3. What do you think Jesus doing in the 'secluded place'? _____

► Someone once said that 'the enemy of the best is the good'. How does this apply to Jesus' ministry as well as ours?

Physical and Spiritual

The physical healings are the visible expression of a spiritual truth. Through Christ, the spiritually blind see, the spiritually broken are made whole, the spiritually enslaved are set free and the spiritually dead are reborn to eternal life!

As important as Christ's true identity was, the responsibility for spreading it to the world was delegated to true Believers, not deceiving spirits.

4. Compare the crowd's priorities with Jesus'? _____

5. How does Christ' decision to leave a thriving, exciting healing ministry to preach the Kingdom of God in other cities apply to us today?

God's Priority

In the midst of much activity and motion, it is always wise to stop and evaluate if you are moving in God's direction. During His time of prayer, Jesus obviously heard God's priority for Him to preach of His Kingdom throughout Judea!

Three Principles from Luke 4:40-44

1. **When you seek to help others, others cannot help but seek you.** Jesus came serving others and they responded. Those in need came in droves to be released from their physical illnesses and spiritual bondage. When you seek to serve, be not surprised at those who will seek your service. It will test your patience, energy and time. There will always be those who will want to be ministered to, but remember ...

2. **Busy is not always best.** Sometimes one must not only ask 'what' but 'why' as well. Satan doesn't mind busy Christians, as long as they're not busy reaching the world for Christ. Jesus could have had a tremendous ministry staying right where He was and healing people . But that's not the main reason He came. A quiet time with His Father refocused His vision and He did not hesitate to fulfill it. Would we but stop our 'busyness' and listen to our Father to hear whether we are busy going about His business or ours.

3. **The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.** Always remember that we only have a finite amount of time to accomplish our Lord's Commission. Time is the most important commodity we have, for once spent, it is irretrievable. Therefore, we must make every day count by investing every one for eternity. And there is no greater investment of our time than discipleship ... helping to 'Win, Build and Send' people for the Kingdom of our Lord ... for when this world has passed, the only thing that will matter will be our relationship with God. Billions will enter eternity without this relationship because millions of Christians worldwide will have failed to 'make the main thing the main thing'.

Oh, we will argue that we were busy serving in our churches, but the words of Christ will condemn us, for He did not commission us to build our individual denominational kingdoms, but His Kingdom which transcends them all! Let us look beyond our own organizations and unite for this final harvest before our Master calls us to account, lest we be found wanting for our failure to do what He expressly commanded us. He is the LORD and we are but His servants, who exist for this reason only ... to serve and glorify God forever!

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List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

*“Have this attitude in yourselves
which was also in Christ Jesus, who,
although He existed in the form of God, ...
... emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant”*

Philippians 2:5, 7a

Memorize 