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Each member is maturing in the life of discipleship, becoming like the King in character, values, and purpose over time.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

In order to understand what living like a disciple means, we have to understand a little bit about what a disciple actually is. Most of us will equate a disciple with our modern version of a student, that is, someone who is learning from someone else. While there is an element of that in being a disciple, it does not define what a disciple actually is.

NOT JUST A STUDENT

A disciple is a follower, a pupil, and an apprentice. But even more than this, a disciple wants to be **JUST LIKE THE MASTER**. Not just know what the teacher knows but someone who wants to be who the teacher is.

That said, let’s back up and look at the context of being a disciple when Christ walked the earth. Jesus was a rabbi, a teacher of the law and religion, but of much more than that. At that time, particularly in the region of Galilee, rabbis were well known, and many had followers who went with them everywhere they went. These followers were known as disciples of that particular rabbi.

Most disciples would have had to ask the rabbi to become a disciple in the first place. Basically, they were asking “Rabbi, do you think I can be like you?”, and most would be turned away.

Jesus, on the other hand, invited his disciples to join him; they didn't ask if they could. He came to them and said (in one instance), "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19). Additionally, in the calling of Matthew "... he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, 'Follow me.' And leaving everything, he rose and followed him." (Luke 5:27-28)

Q. Why do you think it's important that Jesus invites His disciples instead of waiting for them to ask?

NOT JUST A TEACHER

Jesus was a rabbi, but not **just** a rabbi. He was much more than that, and He didn't come here only to teach. He is Immanuel, God with us, and He came here to save us. So why be a rabbi? Why did Jesus spend so much time teaching?

Let's start by reading [Mark 2:18-22](#), particularly vs. 21-22.

There are two things for us to note here; first, the idea that Jesus is the bridegroom, and second, that there is something 'new' going on.

BRIDEGROOM

Jesus alludes to Himself as the bridegroom, and that as long as He was there, His disciples didn't need to fast. In the Old Testament, the bridegroom was a reference to the Lord. ([Isaiah 62:5](#), [Hosea 2:19-20](#)) In this case fasting was a way to get close to God, and since Jesus was already among them, His disciples were extremely close to God every day. Fasting wasn't necessary—yet.

But it would be. God was with them as Immanuel, but a change was coming. He was going away. Hold on to that idea for a minute and read vs. 21-22 again.

The idea of a new patch on an old garment and new wine in the old wineskin is the same lesson. The bridegroom is bringing change (the Kingdom of God) and the old ways were no longer enough. This is a planned change of cosmic proportions. Immanuel is here and He is the King. The world is no longer waiting for the Messiah because He had arrived. But He is leaving.

This new truth that the Messiah King had come needed to be carried to the ends of the earth. The reason He was teaching, and the disciples were following, was so they would be able to carry the message of the King and the Kingdom to the whole world. (That is why you are reading this now!) He was preparing them to be just like Him because this is what it means to be His disciple.

ARE YOU HIS DISCIPLE?

We have been given ways to mature and become more like Jesus over time. The primary way and the one that's most important is spending time with Him in prayer and through his Word. Disciples spend time with the Master, and you are no different. When you do, He will lead you, guide you, and change you to become more like Him.

Q. What do you think you need to do to step deeper into becoming His disciple?

SUMMARY

We are called to be more than students; we have been called to be disciples. Our teacher is not just a teacher. He is the one and only Son of God and He is our King. After His work of salvation was done, He left, but He didn't leave us alone. As a disciple, you are now one of those who carry His message, and He is giving you the Holy Spirit and His Word to guide and encourage you.

LEADERSHIP CONNECTION QUESTION

Q. Being like Christ as His disciple is challenging. What kind of challenges does this present for you in business?

RESOURCES FOR NEXT STEPS

- KMI 0.4 Holiness
KMI 1.3 My Presence is Requested
- Explore
The Timothy Initiative
<https://www.ttionline.org/>
- RightNow Media @WorkStudy
BEING Challenge
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/441874>