

Discipleship

Scripture: [Matthew 5-7](#)

Date: July 7, 2020

Summary

Christians (disciples) live *with purpose* that points others see Jesus' glory, investing in others' lives to make them into disciples who make disciples.

Main Truth

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught what it means to live as one of His disciples.

Background

The Sermon on the Mount likely presents a compilation of truth Jesus preached all over Galilee and nearby ([Matt. 4:23-25](#)). Some scholars refer to the book of Matthew as the discipleship manual of the first century, teaching Christians how to reach the lost with the gospel and teaching them to make more disciples.

Outline and Specific Truths

Disciples are salt and light ([Matt. 5:13-16](#)).

Disciples obey for God's glory, not their own ([Matt. 6:1-4](#)).

Disciples live purposefully ([Matt. 7:19-24](#)).

Word Study: Discipleship

The word *discipleship* does not appear in the Bible, but the word *disciple* appears about 275 times, depending on which English translation you are using. From the start of Jesus' ministry His followers were known by the Jewish customary term disciple. As the gospel spread from Jerusalem outward, disciples were first called Christians in Antioch as a term of derision ([Acts 11:25-26](#)), but they adopted the term Christian with joy. Disciple and Christian are synonyms. Disciples are not super-Christians, or of a higher order. Based on Jesus' Great Commission ([Matt. 28:18-20](#)), our definition of discipleship is:

Discipleship is intentionally building relationships with lost people with the intent of bringing them to salvation in Christ and teaching them to do the same.

Use your journal or notebook to complete the questions on page 2 to keep these truths in your spiritual focus during the week.

Truth: Disciples are to be salt and light ([Matt. 5:13-16](#))

What can you do to be salt in your world?

How are you influencing those around you to light their way to Jesus?

The Mission of the Church

The church is a sign and instrument of the kingdom of God, a people united by faith in the gospel announcement of the crucified and risen King Jesus. The mission of the church is to go into the world in the power of the Spirit and make _____ by proclaiming this gospel, calling people to respond in ongoing repentance and faith, and demonstrating the truth and power of the gospel by living under the _____ of Christ for the _____ of God and the _____ of the world.

Truth: Disciples obey for God's glory, not their own ([Matt. 6:1-4](#))

How can you guard your motives to obey God for His glory, and not your own?

Truth: Disciples live purposefully ([Matt. 7:19-24](#))

What is the difference between outward compliance to Christ's commands and inward conformity to Christ's lordship?

Next Steps:

What adjustments do you need to make to live purposefully for Jesus' glory and not your own?

What will you do this week to be salt and light to a person or family groping in darkness?

How are you struggling in your battle between outward compliance to God's Word and inward conformity to God's Son?

Habits of a Disciple

- Read the Bible every day
- Memorize Scripture – [Matthew 7:21](#)
- Devote time to private prayer
- Worship & fellowship with other believers
- Share the gospel with a lost person
- Invest yourself in another believer