

SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

CLASS 1

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Definition of disciple

The word disciple occurs _____ times in the Bible

The word disciples occurs _____ times in the Bible

There is one Old Testament instance of the word disciples

The word disciples' occurs once in the Bible

All New Testament instances of the words disciple or disciples occur in the Gospels and the book of Acts. There are no instances of the word in any of the New Testament epistles.

Old Testament - **H3928**

limmûd limmûd (*lim-mood', lim-mood'*)

From [H3925](#); *instructed*:—accustomed, disciple, learned, taught, used.

H3925 - lâmad (*law-mad'*)

A primitive root; properly to *goad*, that is, (by implication) to *teach* (the rod being an Oriental *incentive*):—[un-] accustomed, X diligently, expert, instruct, learn, skilful, teach (-er, -ing). **Isaiah 8:16 (KJV)**

New Testament - **G3100**

mathêteuō (*math-ayt-yoo'-o*)

From G3101; intransitively to become a pupil; transitively to disciple, that is, enroll as scholar:—be disciple, instruct, teach. **Matthew 27:57 (KJV)**

This is the only instance where the word matheteuo is used for the word disciple in the New Testament. However, this is the same word that is used for teach in **Matthew 28:19 (KJV)**

This is the only time in the New Testament that the Greek word mathêteuō is used for the word teach.

G3101 mathētēs (*math-ay-tes'*) From G3129; a learner, that is, pupil:—disciple.

G3129 manthanō (*man-than'-o*) Prolonged from a primary verb, another form of which, μαθέω *matheō*, is used as an alternate in certain tenses; to *learn* (in any way):—learn, understand.

A disciple, therefore, is one who learns, and proves the learning by doing. In order to learn from the teacher, the disciple must spend time with the teacher. The principle here is clear – **anything you love, you will spend time with.** If you love the Lord Jesus Christ, you will spend time with Him. If you love the things of the world, you will spend time with the things of the world. The Lord Jesus gave us standards that we must follow if we desire to be His disciples. We will discuss those further in the next class.

“Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. And a Christianity of

that kind is nothing more or less than the end of discipleship. In such a religion there is trust in God, but no following of Christ.”

From The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, pg. 59

Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)

The word learn in verse 29 is manthano, which is the root word for mathetes, which means a learner or disciple. This command that the Lord Jesus Christ makes to come unto Him is a calling out of one form of government into another government that is not of this world. The government that we are being called out of can be a municipal government as well as a church government. It is, in fact, a calling out of Egypt, which represents the world, and Babylon, which represents organized religion.

Why make disciples?

The most important reason that we are to make disciples is because the Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to do so. **Matthew 28:19 (KJV)**

The Lord commands us to be so diligent and so thorough in our teaching that the Word is in front of us and our children at all times. It is supposed to be so ingrained in us that it becomes our way of life. This teaching is to be so thorough that it passes to the second and third generations. **Deut. 6:6-9 (KJV), 2 Tim. 2:2 (KJV)**

People cannot learn, even if they had a desire, without able teachers to teach them about the Kingdom of God and to guide them into maturity. Without proper teaching, we will be unable to explain to the next generation why we believe what we believe. This depth of understanding cannot possibly be obtained by going to a local fellowship once or twice a week to listen to someone preach. **Deut. 6:20-25 (KJV)**

We must be able to give our sons and daughters a complete answer when asked why we believe what we believe. To simply reply “because God says so,” or “because that is what the Bible says,” indicates a lack of understanding on our part. This is why the Word has become so diluted over the centuries and generations.

Acts 8:29-31 (KJV)

Guide - **G3594**

hodēgeō

hod-ayg-eh'-o

From [G3595](#); to *show the way* (literally or figuratively [*teach*]):—guide, lead.

G3595

hodēgos

hod-ayg-os'

From [G3598](#) and [G2233](#); a *conductor* (literally or figuratively [*teacher*]):—guide, leader.

G3598

hodos

hod-os'

