

Home Group Leaders Notes
Week of September 8, 2024
“Shift?!” week #2



Our “Shift?!” series is focused on how we sharpen our focus on making disciples who make disciples. This week’s focus is on answering the question, ‘What is a disciple?’

We will examine key passages on Jesus’ call to the early followers and a few defining characteristics of what it means to be a disciple.

READ Matthew 4:18-5:1. Matthew 4:19 summarizes Jesus’ early words to some of his followers: “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (people).” Let’s examine the background of His call. What had these men experienced of Jesus that would “leave their nets” and follow Him? Do a quick walk through of the following passages to discover what they had seen, heard, and experienced before this call. (You can use the section headers in your Bible as an overview.)

Matthew 3:2 - 4:17

MY NOTES:

Matthew 3:2-4:17

- John the Baptist and his disciples
- Baptism of Jesus
- Temptation of Jesus
- 4:12 beginning of His ministry
 - John had been arrested
 - Nazareth to Capernaum
 - Jesus began to preach: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Luke 3:1-4:30

MY NOTES

Luke 3:1-4:30

- Ministry of John the Baptist, fulfillment of Isaiah
- Crowds came,
 - disciples
 - tax collectors
 - soldiers
- People were “questioning in their hearts concerning John” (3:15) if he might be the Christ?
 - I baptize with water . . . He will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire
 - He preached good news to the people
- Jesus was baptized 3:21 . . . heavens opened, Holy Spirit, voice
- Jesus began His ministry, genealogy

John 1:19-4:54

MY NOTES

John 1:19-4:54

- John the Baptist
 - Who are you? I am not the Christ

- I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord”
.... prophet Isaiah
- “Then why are you baptizing?” “one comes after me . . . I am not worthy”
- John saw Jesus coming 1:29
 - Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
 - The one I said would come after me . . . to be revealed to Israel.
 - This is the Son of God 1:34
- Two of John’s disciples see Jesus walk by
 - What are you seeking? Come and you will see.
 - Stayed with Him (Andrew +)
 - Found Simon Peter – We have found the Messiah
 - Jesus called him Cephas / Peter
- Jesus in Galilee
 - Found Philip – “Follow me”
 - Philip found Nathaniel – “we have found him”
 - Jesus spoke to Nathaniel
- Wedding in Cana – water into wine (2)
- Jesus cleansed the Temple
- Jesus met with Nicodemus (3)
- They went with Jesus to where John was baptizing
 - John pointed to Jesus as the Christ
 - Jesus is from above, the Son of the Father God
 - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life
- (4) Jesus with woman at the well
- Jesus healed an official’s son who was dying

What do you notice about what it means to be a disciple from Jesus’ words in Matthew 4:19? *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (people).”*

- “Follow me” involves a close relationship.
- “I will make you” means that when we follow, He brings about change, transformation
- “fishers of people” also implies relationships, multiplication, and a new purpose in life

What do we learn about being a disciple from Galatians 5:16-26?

- The Spirit was promised by Jesus (e.g. in John 14-16) – this is Jesus with us, another Counselor / Helper
- As we walk by the Spirit, will change our desires, character, and our actions

From 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17-20?

- When we turn to Jesus and follow Him, we leave our old life behind and become new and in turn, become ambassadors for Jesus and appeal to others to follow Him.

Notes from Pastor Doug’s Message

Pastor Doug shared that to be a disciple requires (1) An intellectual assent to who He is, (2) a transformative process of becoming what He desires, and (3) a missional transition to what He is doing.

Another way to summarize this, is that a disciple of Jesus is someone who knows, loves, and follows Jesus. A disciple is always learning of Jesus, lives in a love relationship with Jesus and therefore obeys Him and lives a life of being on mission with Jesus.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What did you hear and learn this week about being a disciple?

What did Jesus' "shift" in your life when you decided to answer His call to follow?

Who or what helps you in your process of transformation to become like Him?

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Let's reflect on this. Having learned about the definition of a disciple, does this fit who you are and how you live? Is Jesus the love of your life? Is Jesus transforming who you are? Would you say that you are living on mission for Jesus?

We, on the ministry staff of Trinity, are always available to meet with you to discuss these all-important matters.

PLEASE PRAY

- Please pray for our middle and high students in this challenging culture.
- Please pray for the Elders and Pastor Doug as they shepherd our church family.
- Please pray for our Women's and Men's Groups as they grow together.