

Discipleship Lesson 2 1Q 2008
(Lesson taught by Lynda Smith)

Discipleship Then and Now

Overview

What is discipleship to Jesus mean?

- A person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior
- Committed himself/herself to a growing relationship with God
- Using the HS to integrate the character of Jesus into every area of life
- Committed to being responsible members of their church thru active mission
- Motivated by God's Spirit

What is God's Spirit?

The methods that we use to show the following character traits:

- Unselfishness
- Love one another
- Tenderness
- Compassion
- Healing
- Lifting others up
- Giving

What is Satan's spirit?

- Selfishness
- Telling lies
- Taking
- Ambition for self
- Tearing others down
- Self-exaltation

This week we are studying about choosing discipleship both in Jesus time and today. In the tradition of teachers or professors back in Jesus' day, the teacher choose his disciples. Jesus choose 11 of his disciples and Judas was asked to be included as he saw the fame and glory that could be his. Sunday's lesson reminds us of the Greeks seeking discipleship. John 12:20 Their tradition was the opposite of the Jews. The students initiated the relationship and often paid to sit at the feet of their teacher.

The Greeks were interested in the truth about the mission of Jesus and Jesus gave them an audience. Did Jesus call the Greeks? Or did they seek Him out themselves? How do we know that He has called us? Has everyone been called? Does God only call those that are predestined to be His disciples? Or does God treat all of us equally? Rom 8: 29-30 (He calls us) Acts 10:34,35 (God treats all the same) Jer 29:13 (you will find Me cause you seek Me with all your heart) Matt 28:19,20 (teach everyone to be disciples)

Are we seeking the truth about God everyday?

Monday

Almost a year and a half after the start of His ministry when Jesus needed to leave Judea because His life was being threatened, He moved to Galilee and began His formal ministry. Soon after arriving in Galilee, He called a group of disciples. (Matthew 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16) Some of them had been following Him in the previous year and a half—at least at times? Before jumping up and following an itinerant preacher/teacher, what kind of evidence would you want to have?

Methods

Beliefs

Mission Statement

Salary

Health plan, retirement

How would I support my family, would I see my family?

Can you think of a person—a teacher, pastor, or friend—in your past who has had an enormous influence on your life and your beliefs? What was it about that person that influenced you? Were you able to change your ways, your beliefs and follow that person's beliefs?

Several people I determined not to be like....

Someone I wanted to be like....but they disappointed me later in life

Keep our ideals on Jesus.

Tuesday

John the Baptist was the one to lead the way for acceptance of Jesus. He knew his mission. He had many strong believers or disciples. "If he announced himself as the Messiah, and raised a revolt against Rome, priests and people would have flocked to his standard. Every consideration that

appeals to the ambition of the world's conquerors Satan had stood ready to urge upon John the Baptist." DA 178.1 But he refused the splendid bribe. The attention he had, he directed to Another.

Just think of the temptation John had to direct attention to himself.

He did the opposite of what Lucifer did in heaven. Lucifer directed attention towards himself and told lies about Christ. John the Baptist knew he was only a voice—a cry in the wilderness

John knew his mission. He was called to be a reformer.

"Those who are true to their calling as messengers for God will not seek honor for themselves. Love for self will be swallowed up for love for Christ. No rivalry will mar the precious cause of the gospel." DA 179.5

He withdrew his influence even though his disciples were jealous, dissatisfied, and complained. "The same dangers still exist. God calls a man to do a certain work; and when he has carried it as far as he is qualified to take it, the Lord brings in others, to carry it still farther. But like John's disciples, many feel that the success of the work depends on the first laborer. Attention is fixed upon the human instead of the divine, jealousy comes in, and the work of God is marred. The one thus unduly honored is tempted to cherish self-confidence. He does not realize his dependence on God. The people are taught to rely on man for guidance, and thus they fall into error, are led away from God." DA 182.2

Wednesday

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

Did the designated 12 disciples and the others who followed Jesus follow because he asked them to? Or did they follow Jesus because they were so attracted to Him that they could not imagine doing anything else? Is such a relationship feasible in our day?

What kind of relationship would God like to have with those of us who are living at the end of time?

Thursday

Contemporary Discipleship

What would a disciple of Jesus be doing today?

Would God be looking for different qualities, different skills?

What keeps you from being a disciple?

Selfishness, power, money, love for another?
Are there different reasons to become a disciple of Jesus?

- Fear
- Love for God
- Love for another
- Love of a reward
- Love of power or recognition

Would we be willing to be a disciple if we saw or experienced miracles?
What kind of evidence would it take to convince you to leave everything and follow Jesus?

- Miracles—what kind of person would this be?
- Available power—what kind of person would this be?
- Truth over powering lies—what kind of person would this be?
- Heavenly retirement benefits—what kind of person would this be?

Is God asking us to leave everything behind?

Friday

Is our educational system not designed to produce “disciples”? Does it take a lot of preparation?

What do signs and wonders prove? What do they prove? Why should we be cautious about modern day miracles?