



FIRM FOUNDATION Series

Discipleship

Jesus lived out discipleship for us to follow.

Jesus from the beginning was remarkable in His understanding for He was the Son of God.

Luke 2:40 *And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.*

Luke 2:46 *And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.*

Luke 2:47 *And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.*

Like others, Jesus grew naturally in health and in intellectual expanse through the appropriate education of His day.

Jesus also displayed spiritual growth and beauty which was pleasing to the Spirit of God and recognized by those who interacted with Him.

Luke 2:52 *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

Jesus stepped into ministry through this natural process of maturity.

Discipleship is living out a love for God by means of natural and spiritual growth. This causes us to recognize and embrace the commission to help others become followers of Christ.

Matthew 13:54 *And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?*

Two things mark the astonishing power of Jesus' ministry.

1. His Teachings
2. His Miracles

Both bring revelation that He is the Son of God. These powerful dynamics are the catalyst of Jesus' purpose on earth and His love displayed.

Jesus' teaching was consistent with the power and authority from whence He came.

Mark 11:15 *And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;*

Mark 11:16 *And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.*

Mark 11:17 **And he taught**, saying unto them, *Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

Jesus displayed the power and the potential of teaching.

Matthew 7:28 *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:*

They heard the law defined in such a manner as they had never thought of before.
Adam Clarke

Ekplesso - Astonished

1. To strike out, expel by a blow, to drive out or away
2. To cast off by a blow, to drive out
3. To be struck with amazement, astonished, amazed

By nature men and women are ignorant of Divine understanding.

Matthew 28:17 *And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.*

Therefore there must be teaching.

Matthew 28:19 **Go** ye therefore, **and teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Matthew 28:20 **Teaching them to observe** all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Going.

Teaching.

Exhorting to observe and obey.

The exhorting/teaching of truth is astonishing. It presses a man/woman to choose unbelief/belief.

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The teaching and preaching of Jesus transformed unbelievers into believers.

Acts 4:2 *Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.*

Acts 4:3 *And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.*

Acts 4:4 *Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand*

Discipleship is the growth of a believer.

Hebrews 5:12 *For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

Hebrews 5:13 *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

Discipleship will establish Christian living (Christ-like).

Acts 11:25 *Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:*

Acts 11:26 *And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

Discipleship is the intended outcome of conversion.

Luke 22:32 *But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

Job 28:28 *And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*

Psalms 51:12 *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

Psalms 51:13 *Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

Your testimony and understanding is astounding to the desperate sinner!

“All I have done so far is repented”...Commitment to repentance is astonishing to a life bound by sin and should be taught.

Discipleship is for perfecting.

Colossians 1:28 *Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:*

Discipleship should be continual.

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

1 Timothy 4:11 *These things command and teach.*

1 Timothy 4:12 *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

1 Timothy 4:13 *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

Hebrews 3:13 *But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

The method and settings of discipleship are multifaceted and conducive to change. The principles, potential and power are constant.

Acts 28:30 *And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,*

The Lord restricted Paul to a house and there HE TAUGHT and PREACHED.
Acts 28:30 *And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,*

Acts 28:31 *Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*

The work of discipleship is contingent upon faith, perseverance and patience.

Hebrews 6:10 *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

Hebrews 6:11 *And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:*

Hebrews 6:12 *That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*