

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 3rd, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith **Topic:** Becoming a Disciple of Christ

Main Text: Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 16:24-26

Key verse: *“¹⁹Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Matthew 4:19-20 NKJV*

INTRODUCTION: An unfortunate anomaly in the church today is the misuse of the title, “**Christian**”. The standard practice is for persons who attend or are associated with a Church denomination to label themselves as “Christian”, whereas some neither attend church nor actively practice the Christian faith. Rather, they have acquired that title by parental or sectional association, so they would normally simply mark “Christian” when given a chance to indicate their religion.

This was not the practice at the origins of the Church. The process by which Jesus Christ made the first Christians was very deliberate and methodical. From the crowd of believers who followed Him around for His highly successful healing, signs, and wonders ministry, Jesus called unto Himself, those who desired to “come after”(follow) Him (See Mark 3:13-15). Those who answered this call to follow became DISCIPLES and Jesus laid down specific conditions for following Him in discipleship which we shall study today.

In today’s key text (Matt 4:19) Jesus made a promise to each disciple, “Follow me and I will **make** you. . .” As the disciples followed Him, we see that Jesus kept them very close to Himself, eating, staying, and journeying with them while teaching them extensively and exclusively, the principles and secrets of The Kingdom of God. Jesus deliberately kept these secrets from all others (non-disciples) (See Matt 13:10-15). Jesus answered the disciples’ questions lovingly, eventually calling them FRIENDS having revealed to them all the Father had told Him (John 15:15). At the end, Jesus went to the Cross and sent the Holy Spirit exclusively to the disciples, after which they had the boldness to preach and manifest the character of Christ (Acts 4:13). After all these, the disciples had become transformed and were then addressed as “Christians” for the first time at Antioch (Acts 11:26). This was the process by which the first Christians were made and so-called. They were first **believers** (John 2:23-25), then **disciples** before BEING MADE **Christ-ians**, meaning “little Christs” or “Christ-like”.

Today, we shall study the Conditions set forth by Christ Jesus for discipleship in Matt 16:24-26

1. **Read Matthew 16:24 (NKJV, AMPC) (a) Discuss what it means to “Deny yourself”. Look at the explanations from the AMPC version and discuss the implications of each definition. (b) Read Mark 12:31. . What are the implications for a disciple who has fulfilled the condition of denying him/herself?**

The first condition for a disciple stated in Matthew 16:24 is to deny himself. This is further elaborated in Matt 16:25: “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it”. The consequence for the disciple who refuses to deny himself is also explained in Matt 16:26, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

2. **Read Matt 16:24, Luke 9:23 (a) What are the implications of daily carrying your cross? (Hint: Gal 2:20, 1Cor 15:31) (b) Read Gal 6:14,17 what are the implications for a disciple’s daily living? (c) Given the condition of daily carrying the cross, how should this influence the prayer life of the disciple?**

The matter of daily carrying one’s cross speaks to the need for consistent and concerted reminders of our death to sin, worldliness, and the pleasures thereof. The disciples, like Christ, were focused on kingdom pursuits and raising other disciples. The “great commission” of Jesus in Matt 28:19 is to “make disciples of all nations. . .” not erecting church buildings and doing programs to keep the people engaged without the focus of becoming like Christ.

3. **(a)Discuss what the word “follow” means for a disciple of Jesus Christ. (b) What are the implications of limited deliberate discipleship training for the Church today?**

Prayer: *“Dear Jesus my Lord, thank you for your call to be follow, become a disciple, and to make disciples. Please let me not miss the golden opportunity to be trained as your disciple. Amen*