

Discipleship: *The Love of God Working through You!*



Everyone will know that you are my *talmidim* (disciples) by the fact that you have love for each other.”

John 13:35 CJB

Identity, purpose and discipleship are all birthed out of our relationship as children of God and co-heirs with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God. The above scripture tells us that the world will “know” we are Jesus’ disciples from the “love” we have one toward another. This is not just something we can apply when it is convenient for us, but we must ponder what the Word of God is saying in this context. Yes, we have gifts; Yes, we have received salvation through accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, but are we His disciples? Do we have love for one another?

The word love, in this context, is [agape](#). According to Biblehub.com, this is the definition for the kind of love we are to have with one another.

Definition: love, benevolence, good will, esteem; plur: love-feasts

26 *agápē* – properly, *love* which centers in moral *preference*. So too in secular ancient Greek, **26** (*agápē*) focuses on *preference*; likewise the verb form (**25** / *agapáo*) in antiquity meant "to *prefer*" (TDNT, 7). In the NT, **26** (*agápē*) typically refers to **divine love** (= what *God prefers*).

(Note: Click on the word agape for more in-depth study)

In this lesson, we are going to look at discipleship in the life of Jesus and His disciples. We witnessed their initial contact with Jesus and how they followed Him in



John chapter one. We too have received the call to “follow Jesus” and replied, “Yes” to the call. Many principles we find (as it relates to the life of a disciple) will apply to your life and mine as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship in the life of Jesus and His disciples

In Hebrew, Talmid is the word used for disciple and it means “pupil”. In Greek, it is translated as follows:

3101 mathētēs (from math-, the "mental effort needed to think something through") – properly, a learner; a disciple, a follower of Christ who learns the doctrines of Scripture and the lifestyle they require; someone catechized with proper instruction from the Bible with its necessary follow-through (life-applications). See also 3100 /mathēteúō ("to disciple").

When we look at the interconnectedness of Jesus and His disciples from this vantage, we clearly see there is a lifestyle that precedes them walking in the full call upon their life. They had to receive instruction from Jesus, The Word, and begin to apply it to their life in demonstration.

Lesson # 1-Pray and ask for the Holy Spirit (Teacher/Guide) to guide you through the Word of God as you study as a pupil (learner) of the Word.

Lesson#2-Make the necessary adjustments in your lifestyle, according to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit’s prompting.

For this lesson, we are going to look at the Gospel according to Mark. I have a breakdown (separate document) if you would like to understand the difference between Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Many people are not familiar with the variations/similarities that are presented; therefore, it is helpful to do a little study so you will have a clear understanding of each writing style. I will send by request only.

Mark (2:2, 5; 8-11; 13-15; 17)

Jesus (Yeshua)

^{2:2} while he was preaching the message to them... (Preaching)



^{2:5} Yeshua said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven (Forgiveness)

⁸ But immediately Yeshua, perceiving in his spirit what they were thinking, said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Which is easier to say to the paralyzed man? ‘Your sins are forgiven?’ or ‘Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk?’ ¹⁰ But look! I will prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” He then said to the paralytic, ¹¹ “I say to you: get up, pick up your stretcher and go home!” (Discernment, authority over sin and sickness)

¹³ Yeshua went out again by the lake. All the crowd came to him, and he began teaching them. ¹⁴ As he passed on from there, he saw Levi Ben-Halfai sitting in his tax-collection booth and said to him, “Follow me!”. (Teaching, calling disciples)

¹⁵ As Yeshua was in Levi’s house eating, many tax-collectors and sinners were sitting with Yeshua and his talmidim, for there were many of them among his followers. (Fellowship)

¹⁷ But, hearing the question, Yeshua answered them, “The ones who need a doctor aren’t the healthy but the sick. I didn’t come to call the ‘righteous’ but sinners!” (Purpose & awakening)

Mark (2:3-5; 12)

Brotherly Love

³ four men came to him carrying a paralyzed man. ⁴ They could not get near Yeshua because of the crowd, so they stripped the roof over the place where he was, made an opening, and lowered the stretcher with the paralytic lying on it. ⁵ Seeing their trust, Yeshua said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven. In front of everyone the man got up, picked up his stretcher at once and left. ¹² They were all utterly amazed and praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!” (Faith, compassion, agape love, forgiveness of sin and obedience)

Mark (2:6-7, 16)

Religion



⁶Some Torah-teachers sitting there thought to themselves, ⁷“How can this fellow say such a thing? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins except God?” (Religious spirit)

¹⁶When the Torah-teachers and the P'rushim saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his talmidim, “Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?” (Self-righteousness)

Discipleship

Mark (2:14-20)

¹⁴As he passed on from there, he saw Levi Ben-Halfai sitting in his tax-collection booth and said to him, “Follow me!”. And he got up and followed him (Obedience)

Also Yochanan's talmidim and the P'rushim were fasting; and they came and asked Yeshua, “Why is it that Yochanan's talmidim and the talmidim of the P'rushim fast, but your talmidim don't fast?” ¹⁹Yeshua answered them, “Can wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is still with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, fasting is out of the question. ²⁰But the time will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them; and when that day comes, they will fast. (Fasting)

[1 Peter 4:7-19](#) (CJB) **(Click on Scripture Verse(s) for Extended Commentary)**

⁷The accomplishing of the goal of all things is close at hand. Therefore, keep alert and self-controlled, so that you can pray. ⁸More than anything, keep loving each other actively; because love covers many sins.^[a] ⁹Welcome one another into your homes without grumbling. ¹⁰As each one has received some spiritual gift, he should use it to serve others, like good managers of God's many-sided grace — ¹¹if someone speaks, let him speak God's words; if someone serves, let him do so out of strength that God supplies; **so that in everything God may be glorified through Yeshua the Messiah** — to him be glory and power forever and ever. *Amen.*

¹²Dear friends, don't regard as strange the fiery ordeal occurring among you to test you, as if something extraordinary were happening to you. ¹³Rather, to the extent that you share the fellowship of the Messiah's sufferings, rejoice; so that you will rejoice



even more when his *Sh'kbinah* is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are being insulted because you bear the name of the Messiah, how blessed you are! For the Spirit of the *Sh'kbinah*, that is, the Spirit of God, is resting on you! ¹⁵ Let none of you suffer for being a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or a meddler in other people's affairs. ¹⁶ But if anyone suffers for being Messianic, let him not be ashamed; but let him bring glory to God by the way he bears this name. ¹⁷ For the time has come for the judgment to begin. It begins with the household of God; and if it starts with us, what will the outcome be for those who are disobeying God's Good News? —

[1 Thessalonians 1:3](#)

Calling to mind before God our Father what our Lord Yeshua the Messiah has brought about in you — how your trust produces action, your love hard work, and your hope perseverance.

[Ephesians 5:1-3](#)

So imitate God, as his dear children; and live a life of love, just as also the Messiah loved us, indeed, on our behalf gave himself up as an offering, as a slaughtered sacrifice to God with a pleasing fragrance. Among you there should not even be mentioned sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity, or greed; these are utterly inappropriate for God's holy people.

[Philippians 2:3](#)

Do nothing out of rivalry or vanity; but, in humility, regard each other as better than yourselves —

[1 Corinthians 5:9-11](#)

In my earlier letter I wrote you not to associate with people who engage in sexual immorality. **I didn't mean the sexually immoral people outside your community, or the greedy, or the thieves or the idol-worshippers** — for then you would have to leave the world altogether! No, what I wrote you was not to associate with anyone who is supposedly a brother but who also engages in sexual immorality, is greedy, worships idols, is abusive, gets drunk or steals. With such a person you shouldn't even eat!



A Prayer for you, Child of God!



Father,

We are asking (as Your children) for a relationship that is birthed out of nakedness. We desire to be naked and vulnerable before You so that You can illuminate the wonderfulness of our created purpose. We realize this does not come apart from knowing who we are as Your children. Lead us, by the Holy Spirit, into the depths of what it means to walk out on the water when we hear You say, “Come!” I pray that You would remove every limitation that has taken root in us (due to our flesh, the world and the enemy) that hinders us from following Yeshua and being His disciples. Show us areas You desire to touch, and heal, so we can extend that blessing to others for Your glory. Where we have put anything before You, we repent and ask You to teach us what we need to completely trust You. We ask that You would strengthen our faith to believe in Your will for our life. Teach us how to love ourselves so we can love our neighbor in truth. Give us courage to step out into the deep knowing that You will keep us as we fix our gaze on You alone. We desire the “abundant” life that is spoken of in John 10:10. Give us the resolve to relinquish those things that keep us from entirely obeying our Your voice. We believe You are calling us higher and strengthening us for the journey. Summon us as we seek to serve in Your work (in our life, family, neighborhood, city, state, nation and world) that is already in progress (1 Cor. 12:4-7). We ask all this in the powerful name of Yeshua Messiah! Amen.



Challenge

What are the characteristics of a disciple according to the scriptures listed and [Matthew 22:37-40](#)?



What's Your Story?



Click [here](#) to take the spiritual gift survey.

Where are you in your walk as a disciple? This should include your emotional/spiritual maturity, relationships, faith etc.



Transforming you into Jesus' Image

Sacrifice (Titus) 2:14 Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Truth John 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way — and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me. John 8:32 32 you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Compassion (Matthew 9:36)-Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Love (John 15:13) - Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Servant (Matthew 20:28) - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Forgiveness (John 8:4-11)- "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" 6 They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, "All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" 8 Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. 9 When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. 10 Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" 11 "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more

Gentle & Humble (Matthew 11:28-30)-28 "Come to me, all of you who are struggling and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.[a] 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Patient (2 Peter 3:9)-The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some people think of slowness; on the contrary, he is patient with you; for it is not his purpose that anyone should be destroyed, but that everyone should turn from his sins