

The Difference Between a Believer and a Disciple! WEEK ONE

INTRO: The word “Disciple” in Greek (*mathetes*) means a learner or a follower of another’s teaching. In a “**general sense**” every believer is a disciple of Jesus, some just needing more work than others 😊.

Here is the challenge for every CHRISTIAN OR BELIEVER...Matt 28
Jesus is God and HE ALONE gets to define what a disciple is.

Jesus clearly teaches in our Bible that getting into heaven is a free gift which cost absolutely NOTHING,

Let me say that again...it is a free-gift...Jesus paid the price to give you a new home in Heaven!

However, Jesus expects every saved person to grow up in the faith the Father gives (as a gift) to anyone who receives it and become His disciple...Discipleship is a lifelong process that will **cost you everything...My question to you...ARE YOU ALL IN? (Committed?)**

What I am saying is this...FOR JESUS, THERE IS A GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN INFANT BELIEVER AND A MATURE DISCIPLE!...Which one are YOU?

Through this series you will get an opportunity to grow into a mature disciple of Jesus...

AND WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT????? STEVE WAIT!!!!!!

I. What is a Disciple per Jesus?

The Greek word *mathetes* was used outside of the Bible as a general term for a **LEARNER** or **FOLLOWER** of another’s teaching. However, Jesus Himself used the word *mathetes* only eight times. Seven of those eight times He used the words, *My disciple(s)* in a **CONDITIONAL SENSE!**

Eternal Life is a free UNCONDITIONAL gift of God!

Becoming a Disciple of Jesus is however **CONDITIONED** on **OBEDIENCE** to His Will!

We Were Created to be Disciples of Jesus, NOT just believers! This was always God's plan...obedient children, who love Him in the same way He loved us....**willing to obey Him!**

Matt. 28:19-20 *"Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

The writer of Hebrews expects ALL believers to Mature in faith and become Disciples AND Teachers or MAKE OTHER DISCIPLES!

Hebrews 5:12-6:1a *In fact, though **by this time you ought to be teachers**, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. **You need milk, not solid food!** Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. **But solid food is for the mature**, who by **constant use** have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. **Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.***

POINT: A BELIEVER can survive on the MILK of God's Word...
HOWEVER a DISCIPLE will outgrow milk and stop maturing spiritually without SOLID FOOD!

Are you ready for BEEF?

Are you ready for the challenge to become a disciple of Jesus?
If Jesus is your Savior...**the real question= IS JESUS YOUR LORD?**

MAKE SLIDE:Bumper sticker slide #1 God is my co-pilot (WRONG)
(RIGHT-slide #2) If God is your co-pilot, change seats!

HEART to HEART?

IMPORTANT QUESTION...If there was something that would "prevent" Jesus from looking into your eyes and...**NOT being able to say, "WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT"** at the end of your life or at the Rapture, **would you want to know it now????**

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS WILL BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

What Are the Significant Distinctions between the FREE-GIFT of Salvation and the HIGH COST of Discipleship

1. **Christ's invitation to salvation is, "Come unto me"** (Matthew 11:28); **His call to discipleship is, "Come after Me"** (Matthew 16:24).

Matt. 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me

2. **Salvation is about the Cross of Christ** (Matthew 16:21); **Discipleship is about your own cross** (Matthew 16:24).

Matt. 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and **take up his cross and follow Me**.

3. **At salvation, you receive a gift, eternal life** (John 4:10 and Romans 6:23); **In discipleship, you give God a gift, your body** (Romans 12:1)

John 4:10-14 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹ She *said to Him*, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? ¹² "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will

give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Rom. 12:1 *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

4. The salvation decision (putting faith in Christ for eternal life) need be made only once (John 5:24, 6:37-40, 10:27-28);

The discipleship decision (commitment to obey Christ) must be made again and again (Luke 9:23).

John 5:24 *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

John 6:37-40 *“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. ³⁸ “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”*

John 10:27 *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand*

Disciples of Jesus must make a DAILY decision...

Luke 9:23 *And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross **daily** and follow Me.*

5. The free gift of eternal life is certain (Romans 8:1, 28-30, 37-39)
Discipleship is always at risk of falling short (Luke 14:25-35).

Rom. 8:1 *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Rom. 8:28 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

Rom. 8:37-39 *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Disciples can fall short of producing anything of value for Jesus

Luke 14:25 *Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸ “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ “Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³² “Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ “So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. ³⁴ “**Therefore**, salt is good; but if even*

salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? ³⁵ “It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

6. Salvation is about grace! Eph. 2:4-10

Discipleship is about works Rev. 22:12

Eph. 2:4-10 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ **For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;** ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Discipleship is about works that last to eternity

Rev. 22:12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. ¹³ “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the “beginning and the end.”

7. Eternal “life” is the result of salvation in Christ (John 3:16-18)
Eternal “rewards” are for disciples (1 Cor. 3:10-15).

John 3:16-18 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

Eternal “rewards” are for disciples

1Cor. 3:10 *According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. ¹⁴ If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

Are you STILL ready for BEEF...that would be the MEAT of God’s Word?

What are the 10 Conditions Jesus laid out to become His Disciple?

*Here are the 10 Conditions of a Disciple of Jesus...**ALL** Impossible apart from the Grace, Mercy, Compassion, Love of Jesus and indwelling H/S*

Summary:

The Ten Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus from the Word of God!

A disciple...

1. Must be a genuine believer (John 11:25-26, John 3:14-18, John 6:64-71) **Week 1**
2. Bears MUCH fruit (John 15:8). **Week 2**
3. Holds Jesus as the object of highest affection (Luke 14:26). **Week 3**
4. Allows themselves to be conformed to Jesus will (Luke 14:27). **Week 3**
5. Patterns his life after Jesus (Luke 14:27). **Week 3**
6. Loves others (John 13:35). **Week 4 opening of New Church Dec 1**
7. Stewards Jesus possessions rather than clinging to them (Luke 14:33). **Week 5**
8. Abides in God's Word (John 8:31). **The next three all Week 6**
9. Is a BAPTIZED believer (Matthew 28:19-20) **Week 6 (Bap-Jan 19)**
10. Is actively involved in making OTHER disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)

THE FIRST CONDITION

1. To become a disciple of Jesus a non-believer must first be saved by Jesus, trusting in Him by faith alone.

A disciple must be **A BELIEVER**.

John 11:25-26 “Jesus said to her, (Martha) ‘I am the resurrection and the life; he who **believes** in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives **and believes in Me** shall never die’.”

(John 3:14-16) Whoever “believes” in Jesus will have eternal life and whoever “believes” in Him will not perish.

WATCH THIS:

NOT ALL DISCIPLES ARE BELIEVERS

INCLUDING JUDAS

John 6:64-71 “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to go away also, do you?” ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ “We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.” ⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?” ⁷¹ Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.

JUDAS, one of Jesus disciples was shown to be counterfeit...or had no genuine faith in Jesus!

A person who is *truly* saved by Jesus though faith alone is *justified* by God, a one-time action AND receives eternal life as a free gift.

*Justification is an act of God, apart from works, as a **past tense** action with **ongoing benefits**,*

Rom. 5:1, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

And **Rom. 4:5**, “To the man who does not work, but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness”.

POINT: SALVATION IS 100% A WORK OF GOD...

IT IS HIS GIFT TO YOU!...And your works of obedience are credited as NOTHING TO SALVATION...HOWEVER, “OBEDIENCE” IS ESSENTIAL FOR A MATURING DISCIPLE OF JESUS!

What are The Blessings of a Total Commitment to Christ?

Abundant *Fruit of the Spirit* in our life

Rewards at the Bema and Rev. 2 and 3 (20+ different rewards)

Greater Blessings in this life (The Abundant life promise)

Future rewards.....in my house there are many mansions

....and my Father will reward you

Greater Faith in THIS life that pleases God

Closer FELLOWSHIP with Jesus!

A faith that others can see, as salt and light to the glory of Christ