

Discipleship's Demands
Matthew 8:18-22

Pastor Malcolm
September 10, 2017

What is a Disciple?

μαθητης (mathaytays) – student, learner, disciple

Not a new concept in Jesus' day; nor unique among Jews

The Process of Discipleship

Beit Sepher – House of The Book (Boys and Girls aged 8 - 12/13)

- “Grade school”, most finished educational studies at this level
- Taught reading, writing, and basic math skills
- Torah as primary curriculum, mostly memorized

Bet Midrash – House of Learning (Boys only aged 13-15)

- Engaged in memorization of rest of Old Testament

Bet Talmid – House of Study (Aged 15-30)

- Would apprentice self to a Rabbi; ask to follow and Rabbi would interview
- Three Goals: Be with – Be like – Do what ... the Rabbi does

Case Studies on the Demands of Discipleship

Case #1: *An Overeager Scribe* (Matthew 8:18-20)

The Scribe understands discipleship as another academic pursuit – “Teacher...”

The Scribe is looking for commitment on his terms – “follow wherever you go”

Following Jesus may cost the most basic security (John 19:30)

Following Jesus means Gethsemane, Golgotha, and the tomb

Excursus: Jesus the Son of Man:

- Most common way Jesus refers to Himself in the Gospels
- Devoid of all nationalistic and religious overtones which would confuse
- Provides Jesus the ability to speak clearly about His mission

Case #2: *An Under-Eager Disciple* (Matthew 8:21-22)

The disciple understands more about commitment than the first – “Lord...”

The disciple presents a seemingly honorable family obligation

This disciple is seeking to delay following Jesus until a more convenient time

Jesus is worthy of undivided affection; Jesus demands absolute allegiance

Discipleship is an urgent matter; delay is a response for the spiritually dead

Applications:

Following Christ may mean losing everything in this world; security and comforts

Jesus doesn't beg, He asks for unconditional trust and undivided affection

When Jesus speaks, leprosy, paralysis, and fever obey; the question is, will you?

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Following Jesus means _____, _____, and the _____

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