

## Discipleship: a lifelong process of transformation...

...and the essential nature of Christian life!

Mt 28:18-20: called to make disciples (not converts, Christians or church goers)

But what is a disciple? OED definition:

**disciple** /dɪ'saɪp(ə)l/ *n.* a follower or adherent of a leader, teacher, etc.; one of Christ's original followers. [f. L *discipulus* (*discere* learn)]

i.e. it's personal & it's life changing!!

Jesus directly states 6 clear characteristics that are essential for His disciples:

- obedience (Jn 8:31)                      - single-minded fanaticism! (Lk 14:26)
- love (Jn 13:35)                         - willingness to suffer (Lk 14:27)
- fruitfulness (Jn 15:8)                 - sacrificing everything! (Lk 14:33)

A disciple is a constant learner – not in the academic sense but in the shaping-life sense!

Phil 3:12-14 – never 'there yet' but always 'pressing on'

Always developing in at least 5 areas:

- Love for God (Devotional life)  
Mt 22:37-38
- Love for others (Relational life)  
Mt 22:39
- Character (Inner life)  
Mt 6:19-23, 15:10-20
- 'Ministry' (Life of service)  
Mt 21:25-28
- 'Mission' (Helping others find life)  
Mt 4:18-20, Mt 10, Mt 28:18-20

Discipleship is the opposite of BOTH...

...Passivity AND

...Self-Effort (the danger of 'pseudo-transformation' Mat 23)

"I am part of the Fellowship of the Unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. *I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.* I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colourless dreams, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I now live by presence, lean by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labour by power. My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

*I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.* I must go until Heaven returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colours will be clear.

(Author unclear, possibly Dr. Bob Moorehead)