

Gone Fishing!"

Matthew 4:18-25

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

A **disciple** is a **learner**—one who sits at the feet of a teacher to learn from him.
European education system.

A **disciple** is a **follower**—of a great leader or teacher.

Understanding definitions helps us understand what a disciple *is*, but won't answer question: "*What does it MEAN to be a disciple of Jesus!*"

Confusion about discipleship.

Therefore, we're going to look at passages in gospels to help us understand what it *means* to be a disciple/faithful follower of Jesus.

THREE KINDS OF DISCIPLES—3 ways "disciple" is used in gospels.

1. People who are curious.

John 1:35-51—Peter/ Andrew; Philip/Nathanael

Initial question: "*Rabbi, where are you staying?*"

Initial response:

Jesus doesn't call them to follow Him—yet!

He just invites them to "*Come and see!*"

They've heard about Him. But so far, they're *just curious*.

Similarly, when Philip tells Nathanael about Jesus, he asks
"*Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?*"

Philip's response: He invites him: "*Come and see!*"

2:1, 11 These curious followers of Jesus are called "*disciples*"

Other curious people "follow" Jesus with similar questions:

Matt. 4:23-25 "***Large crowds followed Him.***"

Distinction between being saved and being a disciple.

Matt. 8:1 "***Large crowds followed Him.***"

Matt. 8:19 Even a teacher of the law: "***I will follow you wherever you go.***"

Jesus continues to gather disciples:

Matt. 8:23-27 "*He got into the boat and His disciples followed Him. . .*

[Calms storm] . . . ***What kind of man is this?***

Even the winds and the waves obey Him!"

They're still curious about Him!

After that He calls Matthew

Matt. 9:9 "*He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth.*

"Follow me," He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him."

Curious followers of Jesus ALWAYS come to a crossroads.

They have to decide what they're going to do about Jesus!

They can't stay non-committal and curious!

Some "disciples" decide to trust Him.

John 2:11 After miracle at wedding, "***His disciples put their faith in Him.***"

The curious disciples believe! They're convinced.

Other "disciples" reject Him–

Judas Judas betrayed Him–most notorious–taken as "exception," but notice:

John 6:60-71 ***"Many turn back and no longer follow Him!"***

Judas isn't the exception! The 12 are the exception!

The multitude of His disciples abandons Him!

Example of the 12 points to the 2nd kind of disciples–the minority!

[1. People who are curious]

2. People who are convinced.

John 2:11 *"This, the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him."*

Original four are convinced.

They believed in Him.

Then they went back to their fishing!

They're called "disciples" but they still aren't committed to following Him.

People who are convinced about Jesus trust Him

–but they may not be ready to make a commitment to submit their life to Him.

[=> 3rd kind of disciple:]

[1. People who are curious 2. People who are convinced.]

3. People who are committed.

Matt. 4:18-22 => **Luke 5:1-11**

"The big haul"–Jesus showed them how to fish in ways they never dreamed possible.

After "the big haul" He promises to teach them to do that with *people!*

That does it! Anyone who can do that *deserves* my commitment!

"They left EVERYTHING and followed Him!"

Now they're committed! They want to follow Jesus!

Commitment makes you a faithful follower of Jesus

Commitment makes you acknowledge Christ's right to rule

–my life–an acknowledgment of the Lordship of Christ.

An acknowledgment that He is Lord

–Lord of the universe –Lord of my life!

The only discipleship that CHRIST considers "the real thing" is that of the committed!

"If you aren't willing to give up everything, deny yourself and follow me, you cannot be my disciple!"

As long as I try to debate with Him about what His Word says and what He asks of me, I may be curious,

I may even be convinced–I may be trusting Him for eternal life,

but I'm not a disciple in the full sense, because I'm not committed—I'm not willing to deny myself, to leave everything, and follow Him wherever He leads!"

SO, WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?

What about you? Are you just curious?

God won't let you stay there!

He will bring you to a crossroads where you have to decide what you're going to do with Jesus!

Have you seen enough? Have you decided to trust Him?

Are you convinced? Have you trusted Him and received eternal life?

That's good. I suspect a lot of US are still struggling over that 3rd level of discipleship:

ARE WE COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING HIM?

Are WE ready to leave everything and follow Him?

Unless we're committed to give up everything and follow Him, we're kidding ourselves if we say we're His disciples!

Jim Elliot and 4 other young men, it meant giving up EVERYTHING

=> "*He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose!*"

Discipleship is about COMMITMENT—it's a decision to put everything else in 2nd place, and follow Him!