

## 10 | DISCIPLESHIP



From the beginning of His ministry, Jesus chooses people whom He trains. He does this by spending time with them; they get to observe Him during His work and in His everyday life. Relationship with Him is an important part of the training.

Jesus tells them that if they know Him, they automatically know the Father. He shows them that He wants to be among people: **He talks with them, He eats with them, He goes to them.** During the many meals, lessons are learned. Jesus shows that people are important to God.

Jesus gives his disciples commands that teach them how to be focused on the God of the Kingdom, how to be in touch with him and live with him. Jesus tells the disciples that a new commandment has come.

**The essence of discipleship is that the Father and Jesus love the disciples and want to dwell in them.**

Here is a summary of the instructions Jesus gives to people who follow Him and want to do what He says.

### **Love**

The new commandment is to love one another as Jesus did. Jesus' love went to death and was there even for His enemies. His love went out to all nations. *(John 13:34)*

### **Repent and believe**

He calls you to repent of your old life without Him, and believe in Jesus' words. Instead of being focused on yourself, Jesus comes first. Jesus becomes the King of your life and you become a follower. Conversion is a core task in the Ekklesia: to show people the way to Jesus and to support, encourage and set them free to walk with Jesus. *(Mark 1:15)*

### **Baptism**

Even before Jesus' ministry began, there was baptism, which symbolized the baptism of conversion. Jesus has himself baptized and calls for a physical baptism for those who believe. He adds to this a baptism in the Holy Spirit. Baptism is still an essential part of discipleship. *(Acts 2:38)*

### **Hearing and doing Jesus' words**

Jesus teaches His disciples to listen to His words. In the Bible, for example, we read Jesus' teaching on praying, giving and loving. But Jesus can also give specific commands through His Spirit. This involves always being connected to Jesus. This is more difficult than memorizing a few rules and trying to apply them. For this you will have to maintain a relationship. The Ekklesia is pre-eminently the place where you can encourage each other to listen to Jesus' words

and help each other put them into practice. *(Matthew 7:24)*

### **Prayer**

As in any relationship, speaking to each other is very important. Prayer is speaking to God. It is what Jesus instructs His disciples to do: pray. Be connected with your heavenly Father. Jesus teaches the disciples that God is a Father with whom you can communicate. The Ekklesia is a great place to pray in unison; special authority rests on it. *(Luke 11:2,9)*

### **Giving what you have received**

Giving is in the nature of God. The Father gives the Son, the Son gives the Spirit, the Spirit gives ministries, gifts and talents. The early church was known for generosity. In the Ekklesia, it is important to share what you yourself have received. You can share your spiritual gifts, or your talents that can help others. *(Matthew 10:8)*

### **Making disciples**

Jesus begins His ministry by making disciples Himself. At the end of His time on earth, He tells His disciples to make disciples of all nations and teach them what Jesus taught them. *(Matthew 28:18-19)*

### **Celebrating the Lord's Supper**

Jesus concluded His ministry with a symbolic meal. He called for us to celebrate this meal together in remembrance of His suffering, death and resurrection. He called this meal the symbol of the new covenant. Jesus by His death closes the old covenant - On the cross He says, 'It is finished.'

The new covenant is no longer about observing laws and rules, but about living in union with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The new covenant is not about what I do, but about what He did on the cross. *(Matthew 26:26-28)*

### **EXERCISE:**

1. It seems like a list of things to do, but will you look into your heart to see what you are already following with your whole heart right now? Is that coming out of love for Him?
2. What tasks do you find difficult and definitely need your attention?
3. Are there brothers or sisters you can help by sharing these commands with them and learning to to walk with Jesus in what He has taught us?



### **LESSON LEARNED:**

**Disciple people God gives you love for. Teach them to follow Jesus. Disciple those who follow Jesus and do what He says.**



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