

31 May 2026 – Discipleship 101 Part 1

Introduction

AMG Bible Illustrations Who Leads Whom?

A worldly kind of person came to the preacher, defending her practice of attending worldly entertainments. She said, "But, pastor, I can take Jesus Christ with me wherever I go."

The pastor after a few moments of thought quietly replied, "Indeed, is that so? I didn't know that was the order of the Bible. Is it for you to lead Jesus to where you want to go or for Him to lead you where He wants you to be?"

Jesus calls us to repent, to trust Him as Savior, submit to Him as Lord, take up our cross and follow Him.

750 Engaging Illustrations for Preachers, Teachers and Writers 747: Truth

In Discipleship Journal author Mack Stiles tells the story of how he led a young man from Sweden named Andreas to Christ. One part of their conversation is especially instructive.

: Andreas said, "I've been told if I decide to follow Jesus, He will meet my needs, and my life will get very good."

This seemed to Andreas to be a point in Christianity's favor. But I faced a temptation—to make it sound better than it is.

"No, Andreas, no!" I said. Andreas blinked at his surprise.

"Actually, Andreas, you may accept Jesus and find that life goes very badly for you."

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well, you may find that your friends reject you, you could lose your job, your family might oppose your decision—there are a lot of bad things that may happen to you if you decide to follow Jesus. Andreas, when Jesus calls you, He calls you to go the way of the cross."

Andreas stared at me and asked the obvious: "Then why would I want to follow Jesus?"

Sadly, this is the question that stumps many Christians. For some reason we feel that unless we're meeting people's needs, they won't follow Christ. Yet this is not the gospel. I cocked my head and answered, "Andreas, because Jesus is true."

Those on the side of truth come to Jesus.

Jesus also said:

John 14:6 LSB

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.

Jesus is the way, the way to:

- be saved,
- the new life,
- fellowship with the Father.
- forgiveness,
- hope,

Jesus warned His disciples that ministry would be demanding and often painful.

If you call people out of Satan's kingdom, you should expect expected opposition and even persecution.

In Matthew 10:16-23, Jesus prepared His disciples for persecution from religious authorities, civil powers, and even family members.

Then in Matthew 10:24-39, Jesus described what marks the life of a disciple in a hostile world.

These principles guide every believer, who seeks to follow, imitate and make disciples of Jesus.

A true disciple has committed himself or herself without equivocation, without reservation to Jesus Christ the Savior.⁸
A. W. Tozer

Passage

Matthew 10:24–28 LSB

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he becomes like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

Therefore, do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Proposition

5 Characteristics of a disciple of Jesus that should guide you as you follow Jesus.

1. The measure of a disciple vs 24
2. The goal of a disciple vs 25
3. The boldness of a disciple vs 26
4. The message of a disciple vs 27
5. The fear of a disciple vs 28

1. The measure of a disciple vs 24

Matthew 10:24 LSB

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

24 “A disciple...”

The Greek root = comes from the idea to learn.

The lemma (Dictionary meaning) Mathetes = disciple, used 73 times in Matthew,

Baker: disciple, student, follower, committed follower- someone who has responded positively to the call of Jesus.

Bedag: describes it as one who engages in learning through instruction.

Always learning and following Him

Normally disciples would learn from the master to become a master, but in this case, Jesus stated something different:

“...is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.”

They would never be superior to Him.

Luke in his Gospel adds that the disciple would be like Jesus.

Luke 6:40 LSB

A student is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

Our passage highlighted the position of Christ to be superior to His disciples.

A disciple as an apprentice and a student stands under the teacher.

By definition a disciple(learner) is beneath his teacher in knowledge and wisdom.

Now the Grammar reveals that it's a timeless fact that the Disciple of his teacher like a slave is never above their master.

The term above implies the disciple will never be more exalted, glorious or superior. to Jesus.

Here you find the foundational core principle of a disciple of Jesus.

You are always to be in submission to Jesus:

- He is the head and not you.
- He is the glorious one and not you.
- He is the all-knowing one and not you.
- He is the messianic king, and you are His slave.

In His kingdom, He is in charge and is far superior to you.

It is a master disciple relationship - one in authority and submission.

He is Lord, Master and king and not you.

The Creator creation distinction is highlighted.

The measure of discipleship is not self-rule but surrender to Christ.

Application

Are you truly a disciple of Jesus?

If not

I urge you this morning to repent and trust in His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

If you belong to Him, live under His authority.

Make every day the decision to recognize He is in charge.

Repent of all the times you chose to be in charge of You:

Of your thoughts
Of your emotions
of your thoughts
of your words
of your actions
of your wealth
of your time

He is superior in every way to you.”

Superior:

- in wisdom, so seek His counsel.
- in knowledge so be taught by His word
- in truth so forsake error and embrace biblical truth
- in Love so seek to emulate Him
- in Mercy so thank Him and show mercy to others
- In authority so seek to obey Him
- in power so bow to His power and appeal to His power for help
- in sovereignty so yield to Him
- In majesty, so worship Him.

This brings us to the second characteristic of a disciple of Jesus that should guide you as you follow Jesus.

2. The goal of a disciple vs 25

Matthew 10:25 LSB

It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

25 “It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master.”

The term sufficient =Arketos - root means sufficient, enough,

Lemma

BEDAG = adequate

LOUW Nida = what is sufficient for some purpose and resulting in satisfaction

Sense: = to become sufficient for a purpose

Here we find the sufficient goal, the goal that is enough.

It is enough for a disciple to become like the Teacher.

That is our aim: not to surpass Christ, but to be conformed to Him.

Rather you might share some characteristics of the one you follow over time.

The Grammar reveals a degree of doubt.

The disciple might become like His teacher and by implication the slave like His master.

This is the educational, training and emulating goal for the disciple. That you might be become like Jesus.

You understand He is far superior to you in all ways, yet your aim, you model your blueprint for your life is Him.

God created us to bear His image, and in salvation.

Genesis 1:27 LSB

And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

But the fall marred that goal.

God is restoring that purpose by shaping the believer into the likeness of His Son.

Like the moon reflects the sun yet it is more than 400 hundred times in diameter smaller than the sun.

You are infinitely smaller than God, yet you can reflect some of His glory, some of his character in your life and that should be your aim.

God's original plan has always been that you should be holy and blameless, like Christ.

After the fall His aim remains the same.

Romans 8:29 LSB

Because 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 brothers.

What would be some ways you are to become like Jesus?

The Disciple is to know and obey Jesus's commands.

Matthew 28:20 LSB

teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The disciple is to **walk like Jesus** walked in their conduct.

1 John 2:6 LSB

the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

The problem with our walk is 1) our own sinful hearts, 2) We have a warped picture of who Jesus truly is, and so even with our best attempts in this life, we never fully arrive in this sin-stained world.

1 John 3:2 LSB

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He is manifested, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

So, the disciple's goal is likeness to Christ in character and conduct.

But it also includes sharing in the rejection He suffered.

The hostility Jesus faced, you will also face.

Believers will never be treated better than their master.

If the master experienced hostility so would the student

“If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!”

If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub



Baal figurine from Ugarit

10:25

Slide:
Figurine
representing
Baal, that's
on display in
the Louvre

Translating it directly, it would read: since they called the master of the house Beelzebul, how more his members.

Now the term Beezebul originally called Baalzebub is mentioned four times in the Old Testament.

2 Kings 1:2,3,6, 16

The Old Testament reveals a god called Baal zebub of Ekron.

This was a Semetic god over the Philistines.

Zebub is the collective noun for flies and so some would call Him Lord of the flies.

He was the god that could cause or cure disease.

The enemies of Jesus corrupted the name calling Jesus Baal-Zibbul meaning Lord of dung.

Many Jews applied this term to evil beings and used it to refer to Satan.

These were statements of utter contempt.

Instead of receiving Him as their Messiah, they attributed Jesus's ministry to pagan practices of even worse to Satan.

The Disciples of Jesus should understand that just as some showed contempt to Jesus so they would experience the same kind of contempt.

Application

As a disciple of Jesus: you aim should be to become Like Christ.

To do so:

- 1) Studying the Scriptures
- 2) Ask Jesus to reveal who He is to you.
- 3) Seek to love and obey Jesus in all you think, speak or do.

Then as Disciple of Jesus expect that some people will show contempt, disrespect and even hatred because of Christ.

Matthew 10:22 LSB

And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

John 15:18 LSB

If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you.

When you pray, and ask Jesus to help you become like Him, know that that may also be answered by suffering and persecution for His glory.

The third characteristic that should guide a disciple of Jesus as you follow Him.

3. The boldness of a disciple vs 26

Matthew 10:26 LSB

Therefore, do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

In vs 26 -28 Three times Jesus told his disciples not to fear.

The emotion of fear is a natural response a disciple of Jesus will have to deal with.

It's the response of the heart to potential danger or distress and often triggers a survival response as you may seek to escape the situation.

The term Fear Root *pobos* =be afraid, being frightened

Lemma *phobeo*=terrify, frighten SENSE =to feel anxious or apprehensive about a situation.

Jesus instructed them.

26 “Therefore, do not fear them,”

The Grammar reveals a degree of doubt.

You might not fear them.

Who is the “Them”

It's those who are enemies of Christ and His disciples, like those mentioned in vs 25.

Proverbs warn us.

Proverbs 29:25 LSB

Trembling before man brings a snare, But he who trusts in Yahweh will be set securely on high.

It's natural that one would want to avoid danger, conflicts, ridicule.

We want people to speak well of us.

Jesus exhorted his disciples not to be afraid.

Matthew 14:27 LSB

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Matthew 28:10 LSB

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and report to My brothers to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

Luke 12:32 LSB

Do not fear, little flock, for your Father is well pleased to give you the kingdom.

Here we see Jesus then giving reasons why you should not be afraid.

“for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be known.”

The grammar indicates it as a future event that is true and will happen.

Everything hidden will be revealed.

In the end of the day, God will make everything right.

God will expose what is hidden, judge what is false, and vindicate what is true. The world does not have the final word—God does.

All the deceptions, lies, falsehoods, will someday be exposed by God.

The world tries to hide; it tries to present sin as good and righteousness as bad.

God will unveil wickedness for what it is.

1 Corinthians 4:5 LSB

Therefore, do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and make manifest the motives of hearts. And then each one's praise will come to Him from God.

Paul calls this day the revealing of the sons of God.

Romans 8:19 LSB

For the anxious longing of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

1 Timothy 5:24–25 LSB

The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their sins follow after.

So also, good works are quite evident, and those which are otherwise cannot be concealed.

So, trust God to sort out everything on Judgment day.

The result, you may **boldly** face of opposition, knowing God will ultimately have the final say.

Application

Trust God to bring justice in His time.

Do not compromise because of pressure, ridicule, or opposition.

Stand for the truth with quiet courage, knowing that Christ will bring everything to light.

Vengeance belongs to the Lord.

The fourth characteristic that should guide a disciple of Jesus as you follow Him.

4. The message of a disciple vs 27

Matthew 10:27 LSB

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

27 “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light.

Note that the I refers to Jesus

What I (Jesus) tell you,

The grammar reveals that what Jesus was telling as a lifestyle.

This would relate to all Jesus had taught His apostles in the time they had followed Him.

The description of it being in darkness refers to it being hidden. It's hidden to the world.

So, what Jesus has said you are to speak.

This is a command.

The metaphor light refers to it being revealed.

In New Testament times Jewish rabbis trained their disciples by standing next to them and whispering into their ears.

What the student heard, he would speak aloud.

This was part of the mission of Jesus.

Isaiah 50:4–5 LSB

Lord Yahweh has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning; He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.

Lord Yahweh has opened My ear; And I did not rebel Nor did I turn back.

Jesus listened and spoke.

John 8:28 LSB

So, Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing from Myself, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

In essence this is the heart of the great commission.

Matthew 28:20 LSB

teaching them to keep all that I commanded you;

The disciple's message is not self-made.

We speak what Jesus has taught.

What was once heard in private must be proclaimed in public.

Disciples listen to Christ, believe His Word, obey His commands, and make His gospel known to others.

The truth we receive from Him is truth we must not keep to ourselves.

Application

How many of you are keeping the gospel hidden?

How many of you are not learning how to share the gospel?

If I was to come to you and say please share the gospel with this person, how many of you would be able to do so?

What God has whispered to us through the pages of His word, you are to speak aloud to the world.

“...and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.”

Slide Rooftops of the Old city in Jerusalem

What you hear in the ear, proclaim on the housetops



Rooftops in the Old City of Jerusalem (from the west)

10:27

Here we find typical Hebrew parallelism in this Greek text.

in contrast to Jesus saying, what I tell you, He stated: what you hear.

What you hear in your ear you must proclaim.

Upon the roof tops is a metaphor for making something public.

Shouting from a roof top could be heard a great distance.

This was how public announcements were made.

Like in Tanzania when the Muslims used to make announcements from the minaret.

You want the gospel to be made known.

As disciple's ministry involves not just listening and hearing Jesus but also speaking and proclaiming to others.

Jesus has entrusted every believer with a speaking and proclaiming ministry.

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 LSB

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

People need Jesus to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, shared by his disciples.

Romans 10:14–15 LSB

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

And how will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim good news of good things!"

The fifth characteristic that should guide a disciple of Jesus as you follow Him.

5. The fear of a disciple vs 28

Matthew 10:28 LSB

*And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul;
but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

28 “And do not fear those...”

The disciple of Jesus was commanded as a lifestyle to not fear **those**.

Don't fear those that slander Christ or yourself.

But Jesus goes on to reveal a more fearful situation.

He describes who those.

“...who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul;”

Physical death is the full extent of the harm the enemies of Christ can bring to you. They can kill your body, but your soul remains intact.

Paul himself had been warned by the HS that he would face affliction and eventually death still continued.

Acts 20:22–24 LSB

*And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem,
not knowing what will happen to me there,
except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying
that chains and afflictions await me.*

*“But I do not make my life of any account nor dear to myself, so that I may
finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to
testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.*

Paul did not fear those who could or would kill Him.

The problem for unbelievers killing Christians is that believers long to be with Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:6–8 LSB

*Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home
in the body we are absent from the Lord—
for we walk by faith, not by sight—
we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at
home with the Lord.*

Dying is not something a believer fears.

We fear the process of going towards death, but death is a relief.

Philippians 1:21 LSB
For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Even if they destroy your body, some day you will get a glorified body.

Philippians 3:20–21 LSB
For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by His working through which He is able to even subject all things to Himself.

Romans 8:23 LSB
And not only this, but also, we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

In the face possible death remember, your soul is safe.

Jesus then directs his disciples to whom they should fear.

“...but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

You are commanded to fear God as a lifestyle.

The reason is given.

God is able (capable) to destroy (Root destroy, perish, Lemma = Bedag = ruin, Damage irreparably)

To destroy does not mean annihilation.

It's not as if the unbeliever will cease to exist.

The term destroy refers to total ruin or loss.

Paul uses the term.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 LSB

These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might,

Only God can destroy(ruin) a soul.

Luke 12:5 LSB

But I will show you whom to fear fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

Hell is the eternal domain for ruined souls.

Here we find the motive for ministry, for missions, for making disciples of the nations.

The fear of God.

Why, because He is the only being more than able to destroy souls in hell.

Application

- How does one fear God.
- A true believer does not fear God in the sense of fearing that he or she may be cast into hell.
- So how should you grow the fear of God.

Proverbs 9:10 LSB

The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Fearing God is the beginning of wisdom.

It's grown through God's word.

Proverbs 2:1–5 LSB

*My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,
To make your ear pay attention to wisdom, Incline your heart to discernment.
For if you call out for understanding, Give your voice for discernment.
If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures.
Then you will understand the fear of Yahweh And find the knowledge of God.*

Practically this means as core principle for any disciple is spending Time in God's word daily.

1. You should have a daily quiet-time

- a. You read the bible.
- b. You come with an expectation asking God to reveal himself to you. ask: What do you want me to know about you?
- c. As you read, you take a pen and paper, and you write what you learn about who God is.
- d. Your perspective of God will grow.

2. You now respond to what God has revealed to you about himself.

- a. You talk to Him.
- b. You praise and thank Him.
- c. You mediate upon what He has revealed.

3. Then be encouraged by His word.

4. Allow God to confront you on the sins of your heart.

a. Confess and repent of your sins.

5. Get direction from the Lord.

- a. Ask His counsel.
- b. pursue relationship with Him.

6. As you practice God's commands, you will grow in the fear of God.

Deuteronomy 6:1–2 LSB

Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments, which Yahweh your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do it in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear Yahweh your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I am commanding you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

Conclusion

Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations 3480 Word of a Gentleman

When David Livingstone sailed for Africa the first time, a group of his friends accompanied him to the pier to wish him Bon Voyage. Some of them, concerned for the safety of the missionary, reminded him of the dangers which would confront him in the dark land to which he was journeying. In fact, one man urged Livingstone to remain in England.

In response, David Livingstone opened his Bible and read aloud the portion of our Lord's last recorded words in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 28: "Lo, I am with you always." Turning to the one who would have prevented his going, the missionary said: "That, my friend, is the word of a Gentleman. So let us be going."

—The Pilgrim
