

THE LIFE OF A FOLLOWER

A **disciple** was an apprentice who learned under the expertise of a craftsman, philosopher or teacher in order to one day become like them.

Jesus was a **rabbi** (Jewish religious teacher) who called disciples. Rather than inviting the best of the best, He called mostly working-class nobodies.

The call to discipleship is simple: **“Follow Me.”**

A disciple is someone who:

(1) Loves Jesus (2) Lives by His Teachings (3) Leads Others to Him

If someone believes that following Jesus is only...

#1 and #2, then they believe that faith is only a private affair.

#1 and #3, then they believe Jesus doesn't mean to shape how we live.

#2 and #3, then they believe that Jesus is a taskmaster.

Following Jesus is not just about believing a set of ideas. It's also about surrendering to His way of life. When we do, transformation happens.

DISORDERED DESIRES

It's often assumed that **learning** what is right results in **becoming** that way.

What often gets taught is something like this:

Belief → Desire → Practice

In this view, right beliefs reshape your disordered desires, which leads you to live in the right way. But knowledge alone won't change your desires.

A better approach looks like this:

Belief → Practice → Desire

In this view, right beliefs motivate us to live differently, and these actions and habits give room for the Spirit to reshape our desires. Living by the teachings of Jesus calibrates your heart toward good desires.

The way of Jesus is not just **information**. It's also **formation**.

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PRODUCTION VS. CONNECTION

Adding spiritual habits to your life can become a way of earning salvation.

The Gospel can turn into: “**right life leads to eternal life.**”

Jesus’ Gospel is the opposite: “**eternal life leads to right life.**”

You are saved by grace through faith. However, faith invites the Spirit to begin to generate what we never could on our own. This happens by staying connected to the Vine (John 15:4-5).

Jesus’ command is not to bear fruit. It’s to **abide**—to remain connected to Him and make Him your home.

Make no mistake: God wants fruit! But Jesus the Vine is what generates the fruit. Your job is to stay connected to Him.

Abiding in Jesus is more important than **activity** for Him.

Our time is often prioritized around **production** rather than **connection**, but this causes our relationships to suffer—with God and with one another.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Acts 24:22-25 - Felix likes hearing about Jesus, up to a point. He bails once the way of Jesus requires him to sacrifice something.

Luke 9:23-24 - Following Jesus means putting to death your old life.

It means self-denial and humility and forgiving your enemies.

For some people, that cost is too high.

The good news is that this **death** brings **new life**.

Dying to that old life means freedom from it.

You give up a lot to follow Jesus fully; but you gain so much more.

Then He said to them all: “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

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