

Discipleship

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

LESSON 1

Matthew 4:18-22

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

1. When Peter and Andrew followed Jesus, they surrendered _____ to Jesus.

2. When James and John followed Jesus, they recognized His authority was greater than that of _____.

3. Jesus will make one who follows Him _____.

4. Does Jesus have the right to expect immediate surrender? _____

5. This story illustrates that rescuing men from the lake of fire is more _____ than catching fish from a lake (or any other secular job, even necessary occupations.)

Mathew 28:19,20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

NOTE: "TEACH" in verse 19 means "MAKE DISCIPLES."

6. All Christians have the job of making _____, therefore it is important that they know what discipleship means.

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Mark 8:31

31 And He began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And He spake that saying openly. And Peter took Him, and began to rebuke him.

33 But when He had turned about and looked on His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind Me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

34 And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

35 For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it: but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36 For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

7. When Peter wanted Jesus to avoid suffering and rejection, what did Jesus say? _____

8. What does Jesus say the requirements for following him are? _____

9. What should a person expect who will not give in to Jesus' requirements according to Mark 8:35? _____

10. What may a person expect who loses his life for Christ's sake and the Gospel? _____

11. When Jesus talked about losing your soul (vs. 36) does it sound like He was talking about whether you follow Him or not? _____ Why?

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12. Do people ever exchange their souls for anything? _____

13. What will happen to one who is ashamed of Jesus and of His words? _____

Mark 10:28-31

28 Then Peter began to say unto Him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed Thee.

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the word to come eternal life.

31 But many that are first shall be last, and the last first.

14. When and how will those who forsake all for Jesus be rewarded? _____

15. Should we expect the most famous Christians (in this life) to be first in God's kingdom? _____

16. If someone gives up all for Christ, is slandered, rejected, poor, and generally "last" in this life, does that mean he is a failure? _____

Luke 9: 23 And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

17. What added requirement does Jesus give in Luke 9:23 as compared with Mark 8:34?

Luke 9 :57-62

57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

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60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

18. Following Jesus means surrendering your right to what (vs. 58)? _____

19. Jesus does not allow other responsibilities or relationships to come _____.

20. "Let the dead [unsaved] bury their dead [care for their relatives until they die]: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God" shows what? _____

21. If someone is about to follow Christ, what is the danger of talking about it with others who do not want to? _____

22. In fact, even _____ would make us unfit for the kingdom of God: "Remember Lot's wife."

Luke 14:25-33

25 And there went great multitudes with Him: and He turned, and said unto them,

26 If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to

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meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple.

23. What requirement does Jesus make in Luke 14:26 for discipleship? _____

24. What does Jesus mean by hating father, mother, brothers, sisters, etc.? _____

25. If someone puts another before Christ or does not bear his cross, is he an imperfect disciple? ____
What did Jesus say? _____

26. Someone who intends to follow Christ should _____ (vs. 28 & 31)

27. Discipleship is like _____ in verse 28 and _____ in verse 31.

28. Those who begin to follow Christ but do not finish can expect what for themselves and for the cause of Christ? (vs. 29) _____

29. Since discipleship involves much conflict, sometimes with others and continually with the powers of darkness, the prospective disciple should decide to make _____ with either Christ or the powers of evil (whichever is really stronger, vs. 32.)

30. According to Luke 14:33, what is the requirement for discipleship? _____

31. If someone, in trying to follow Christ, does not forsake all, is he a faulty, inferior disciple? ____
What did Jesus say? _____

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed.

32. What is the characteristic of real disciples, according to John 8:31? _____

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

33. How are disciples recognized? _____

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John 15:8 Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.

34. How do disciples prove themselves to be disciples, according to John 15:8? _____

Acts 2:41-45

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

Acts 6:1, 7

1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied...

7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 11:26B And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people [made many disciples]. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

35. Was discipleship common in the New Testament church as recorded in Acts? _____ How do we know? _____

LESSON 2

What does discipleship mean to us?

Matthew 4:18-22 (see lesson one)

1. If someone is not drawing others to Christ he has not been (vs. 19) _____. (compare with Matt. 12: 30b "He that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.")

Matthew 28:19,20 (see lesson one)

2. How do you know all Christians are to make

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disciples and not just those eleven apostles? _____

3. Does a Christian need to wait for a special call to make disciples or to spend the major part of his time in the soul winning business? _____ Why?

4(a) Did Jesus command us to baptize disciples or just those who make a profession of faith? _____

(b) Did the apostles baptize converts immediately? (Acts 2:41;10:47,48;16:33) _____

(c) Are real converts disciples? _____

5. If we are to make disciples, we ourselves must be _____.

Mark 8:31-38 (see lesson one)

6. When is "love" or "kindness" or "sympathy" Satanic?

7. Name several things people commonly exchange for their souls.

8. Why are people ashamed of Jesus? Give as many specific reasons as you can.

9. What words of Jesus, parts of the Bible, do you think people are especially ashamed of?

Mark 10:28-31 (see lesson one)

10. Does the fact that some Christians have houses and lands mean that they have not forsaken all or sold what they have and given to the poor as Jesus commanded in Luke 12:33? _____ Why?

Luke 9: 23 (see lesson one)

11. How or when does a person deny himself? Give as many examples as you can.

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Luke 9:57-62 (see lesson one)

12. What does Luke 9:57-62 and 14:25-33 show about Jesus' method of recruitment?

13. What does Jesus tie in with following Him in Luke 9:59,60? _____

14. What principle do you see in the statement "Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God"?

Luke 14:25-33 (see lesson one)

15. When are the times to "hate" father, mother, wife, children...? Give several specific examples of when loyalty to Jesus would appear to be hating these others?

16. When is it not time to "hate", that is, when does this verse not apply?

17. In what sense do we forsake all?

Name as many kinds of things as you can, of things we ought to literally forsake.

Give any Scriptures that would apply.

Compare John 8:31 with 1 John 2:19:

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed.

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1 John 2:19 They went out from us , but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

18. Those who completely turn against Christ were never_____.

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

19. How does this verse help us to understand other teaching on discipleship such as Luke 14:26?

John 15:8 Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.

20. Is it necessarily wrong or selfish to want to bring forth much fruit, to bring many people to faith and obedience? _____

Acts 2:41-45

21. Did the early church obey literally Christ's command in Luke 12:33 to "sell that ye have and give alms"?

22. How many people do you know that have obeyed Luke 12:33?

Acts 6:1, 7 and Acts 11:26B

23. How many disciples do you know? (Guess)

24. In view of the multitude of disciples in Acts, how do you account for the rarity of disciples now?

25. Are you a disciple?

LESSON 3

A Personal Checklist of Discipleship

Matthew 4:19-22 (see lesson one)

1. Have you proved yourself to be a fisher of men?

2. How many people have you won to Christ? That is, they were unsaved and you led them to a

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profession of faith, and you can tell by their life that they are real Christians. _____

3. Which rules your schedule, Christ or job?

Which rules your plans, Christ or job?

4. Do parents hinder your discipleship? _____

Mathew 28:19,20

5. Do you merely lead people to a profession of faith or actually make disciples, see them baptized, and help them to observe all things Christ commanded?

6. Is there any reason God would not want you to make discipling the main business of your life in terms of time and energy? _____ If so, what?

Mark 8:38

7. Are there some Scriptures you are ashamed to tell people?

- Scriptures on hell, such as Matthew 25:41, 46?
- Scripture on women not teaching men or having authority over men, I Tim. 2:12?
- Scripture on women keeping silence in church, I Corinthians 14:34,35?
- Scripture on divorce and remarriage being adultery, Mark 10:11,12?
- Scriptures commanding us to separate from those who call themselves Christians but who continue in willful, flagrant sins, such as drunkenness or fornication, I Corinthians 5:11.

8. Are you ashamed of Jesus:

to talk about Him at home?

to dress and act as He would want at home?

to stand against what He is against at home?

to associate with His children at home?

9. Are you ashamed of Jesus:

to talk about Him at school?

to dress and act as He would want at school?

to stand against what He is against at school?

to associate with His children at school?

10. Are you ashamed of Jesus:

to talk about Him at work?

to dress and act as He would want at work?

to stand against what He is against at work?

to associate with His children at work?

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11. Are you ashamed of Jesus:
to talk about Him among friends?
to dress and act as He would want among friends?
to stand against what He is against among friends?
to associate with His children among friends?
12. Are you ashamed of Jesus:
to talk about Him elsewhere?
to dress and act as He would want elsewhere?
to stand against what He is against elsewhere?
to associate with His children elsewhere?

Luke 9:23, 24

13. Are you following proper self-denial
by not: eating too much?
eating foolishly?
being lazy and sleeping late?
dating an unbeliever?
laying up treasures on earth?
giving in to various lusts?
wasting time with TV?
- by: obeying God-ordained authorities?
meditating on the Bible?
praying?
witnessing?
working, even when you don't feel like it?
a simple life style?
giving up your plans to help others?
giving in to others?
14. Are you following proper self-denial in each of the above points daily?

Luke 9:57-62

15. Would you be willing to go without a house in order to serve Jesus?
16. Do you feel it necessary to get your parents' permission to obey God's commands?
17. Are you doing some things that you could leave to others in order to serve Christ more?
18. List the things you do that you could stop doing or do less in order to proclaim the kingdom of God more.
19. Are your plans for a life work things that the unsaved could do?

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20. Are your plans for a life work helping as much as possible in proclaiming the kingdom of God?

21. Are you considering the idea of dropping out of direct service to Christ?

Luke 14:26

22. List the things that your parents do that are wrong. (Remember, this is a personal check list, and this answer, at least, should not be shared with others. Remember also that confessing sins of fathers is a Bible practice. See Ezra 9:7; Nehemiah 1:6, 9:2; & Daniel 9:6 & 9. Often children follow, perhaps without realizing it, the sins of their parents and also bear the consequences. "For I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me" (Exodus 20:5).

23. List any ways your service or obedience to Christ is hindered by:

father-

mother-

wife-

children-

brothers-

sisters-

personal desires-

Luke 14:27-32

24. Have you counted the cost, that is, decided you will obey Jesus no matter what, even if it means shame or death?

Luke 14:33

25. Have you forsaken all known sin?

26. Have you surrendered:

your body to Christ?

your things to Christ?

your thoughts to Christ?

your relationships to Christ?

your vocation to Christ?

your future and your plans to Christ?

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John 8:31

27. Are you continuing in His Word by:
reading it as much as you used to?
meditating on it throughout the day as much as
you used to?
obeying it as well as you used to?
listening to it (preaching, teaching, tapes, etc.)
sharing it with others in testimony as much as you
used to?
teaching it to others as much as you used to?

John 13:35

28. Do your friends, family, and fellow workers
know you are a disciple? _____ Is it by your
love to other Christians or that you said you were a
disciple?
29. Do other Christians think you love them? ____
Are there any who do not? _____
30. Are there any Christians that some people
think you don't love? _____
31. Are you loyal to and defensive of other Chris-
tians when you hear bad reports of them? _____
Are there any exceptions? _____

John 15:8

32. Are you bearing any fruit, bringing anyone to
faith and obedience? _____ a little fruit? _____
some fruit? _____ much fruit? _____
33. Do you expect to bear much fruit? _____
34. Do you obey His commands? _____

Check your obedience to Christ by these com- mands in Matthew:

- Do you rejoice when you are persecuted and slandered for righteousness sake? (Matt. 5:12)
- Do you avoid adultery, even looking and lust-
ing? (Matt. 5:27,28)
- Do you turn the other cheek? (Matt. 5:39)
- Do you go two miles with the one who wants
you to go a mile? (Matt. 5:41)
- Do you give to those who ask, and lend to
those who want to borrow? (Matt. 5:42)
- Do you love your enemies?
- Do you bless those who curse you?

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- Do you do good to those who hate you?
- Do you pray for those who spitefully use you? (Matt. 5:44)
- Do you give in secret? (Matt. 6:1-4)
- Do you pray in secret? (Matt. 6:6)
- Do you pray the Lord's Prayer each day? (Matt. 6:9 & Luke 11:2)
- Do you keep your fasting secret? (Matt. 6:16-18)
- Do you lay up for yourself treasures in heaven rather than on earth? (Matt. 6:19,20)
- Are you seeking first God's kingdom? (Matt. 6:33)
- Do you worry about tomorrow, what you will eat and wear? (Matt. 6:25,28,31,34)
- Do you criticize others? (Matt. 7:1)
- Do you correct faults in yourself before trying to correct others? (Matt. 7:5)
- Do you discern who are "dogs" and "pigs" so that you do not share sacred things with them? (Matt. 7:6)
- Do you ask God for what you want or need? (Matt. 7:7)
- Do you do to others as you want them to do to you? (Matt. 7:12)
- Are you going the narrow way? (Matt. 7:13)
- Are you watching out for false prophets? (Matt. 7:15)
- Do you pray that God will send labourers into His harvest? (Matt. 9:38)
- Do you try to be as wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove? (Matt. 10:16)
- Do you fear those who can kill the body? (Matt. 10:28) Jesus said not to.
- Do you fear God? (Matt. 10:28)
- Do you fear for yourself? (Matt. 10:31) Jesus said not to.
- Do you think Christ came to send peace on earth? (Matt. 10:34) Jesus said not to.
- Do you come to Jesus when you are burdened? (Matt. 11:28)
- Do you take His easy yoke? (Matt. 11:29,30)
- Do you hear His Word? (Matt. 13:9,18,43)

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- Do you understand that it is not what you eat that defiles you but evil thoughts that defile you? (Matt. 15:10-20)
- Do you tell your brother his fault alone (if he has sinned against you)? (Matt. 18:16)
- Did you take one or two others to witness if he does not listen to you? (Matt. 18:16)
- Do you tell it to the church if he does not heed you then? (Matt. 18:17)
- Do you treat him as a heathen if he neglects to hear the church? (Matt. 18:17)
- Do you act as a servant? (Matt. 20:26,27)
- **Do you love God with all your heart?** (Matt. 22:37) This is the first and great command.
- **Do you love your neighbor as yourself?** (Matt. 22:39) This is the second.
- Do you encourage others to call you by titles of honor? (Matt. 23:8-10) Don't!
- Do you practice justice, mercy, and faith? (Matt. 23:23) These are the weightier matters of the law.
- Do you cleanse the inner before the outer? (Matt. 23:26)
- Do you take heed that no one deceives you about the Lord's return? (Matt. 24:4)
- Are you troubled at the news of wars? (Matt. 24:6) Jesus said not to be.
- Do you know that the Lord's coming is near when all the signs He mentioned have come? (Matt. 24:33)
- Are you watching (staying alert)? (Matt. 24:42)
- Are you ready for the Lord's return? (Matt. 24:44)
- Are you going and making disciples?
- Do you baptize them?
- Do you teach them to do all these things Jesus commanded? (Matt. 28:19,20)

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Check your discipleship by these commands from the book of Colossians:

The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write, **“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord”** (I Corinthians 14:37). So these commands in the Epistles are Jesus’ commands as well as His commands in the Gospels.

- Do you walk after Christ as you received Him (in repentance and faith)? (Col. 2:6)
- Are you abounding in thanksgiving? (Col. 2:7)
- Do you watch out that no one takes you captive by human philosophy? (Col. 2:8)
- Do you let anyone lead you into self-abasement? (Col. 2:18) Don’t.
- Are you seeking those things that are above, not things on the earth? (Col. 3:1,2)
- Do you kill these things: fornication?
 uncleanness?
 sinful passions?
 unholy desires?
 covetousness
 (Col. 3:5)?
- Do you put aside: anger?
 temper?
 malice?
 blasphemy (abusive
 speech)?
 filthy talk (Col. 3:8)?
- Do you lie? (Col. 3:9) Don’t.
- Do you put on: feelings of mercy?
 kindness?
 humble attitude?
 meekness?
 longsuffering (Col. 3:12)?
- Do you put up with others?
- Do you forgive others as Christ forgave you? (Col. 3:13)
- **Above all, do you put on love?** (Col. 3:14)
- Does God’s peace rule your heart? (Col. 3:15)

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- Does the word of Christ live in you richly, as you sing in your heart to the Lord? (Col. 3:16)
- Do you do everything you do in the name of Jesus, giving thanks? (Col. 3:17)
- If you are a wife, do you submit to your husband? (Col. 3:18)
- If you have a wife, do you love her? Are you bitter against her? (Col. 3:19)
- Children, do you obey your parents in everything? (Col. 3:20)
- Fathers, do you exasperate your children? (Col. 3:21)
- Do you do whatever you do heartily, as to the Lord? (Col. 3:23)
- Are you continuing in prayer, alert, with thanksgiving? (Col. 4:2)
- Are you using your opportunities to win unbelievers? (Col. 4:5)
- Is your speaking always gracious, winsome? (Col. 4:6)

LESSON 4

The Relationship between Saving Faith and Discipleship

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. Is salvation a free gift? _____

Ephesians 2:8,9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2. Is salvation by faith or by works?

James 2:17 ...Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:19,20 ...The devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead.

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James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

3. If our faith has no works, it is _____. It is the same kind of faith that the _____ have.

Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

I Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed....

4. Are those who continue living a wicked life really saved? _____

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.

5. What kind of people will enter the kingdom of heaven (according to Matthew 7:21)?

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

6. What kind of people will be cast into hell?

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and our to God, for He will abundantly pardon.

7. Turning to the Lord also means turning away from _____.

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Luke 24:47 [Jesus, giving the Great Commission said,] **And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

8. In the Great Commission Jesus told us to preach _____ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

Acts 20:21 [Paul speaking] **Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our lord Jesus Christ.**

Acts 17:30 [Paul speaking] **God... commandeth all men everywhere to repent.**

9. Did the Apostles Peter and Paul preach that people should repent (turn away from sin)? _____

Acts 26:20 [Paul] showed... that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

10. Paul told them not only to repent, but also to _____.

Luke 3:8-14

8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

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12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

11. What are the fruits of repentance outlined in Luke 3:8-14, especially verses 11, 13, and 14?

12. Do the fruits of repentance at salvation outlined in Luke 3:11 sound very different from the demands of discipleship? _____

Mark 10:21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.

13. What did Jesus tell the rich young ruler to do, who came wanting to know what to do to have eternal life (Mark 10:21)?

14. Do Jesus' commands to the rich young ruler sound very different from the requirements of discipleship?

John 10:27,28

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give unto them eternal life....

15. Do Jesus' sheep (those who have eternal life) follow Him? _____

John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.

16. How are disciples known according to John 13:35?

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the

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brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

17. How are Christians known according to 1 John 3:14?

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples of] all nations, baptizing them....

18. According to Matthew 28:19, whom are we commanded to baptize?

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

19. Did the apostles baptize converts immediately or did they wait for growth or proving of discipleship?

20. These facts (the answers to numbers 8 & 9) lead you to what conclusion?

Acts 2:44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common....

21. How many of the believers in Acts 2:44 had all things common?

22. Are the following commands for all Christians or just for a select few?

- **Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. (Matthew 22:37)**
- **Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:39)**
- **Sell what you have and give alms. (Luke 12:33)**

23. Are the demands of discipleship any higher than these commands?

1 John 2:3,4

3 And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar....

24. According to 1 John 2:3,4 what is the test of a person being saved?

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Acts 11:26 And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

25. According to Acts 11:26 what were the disciples called?

26. So is there a difference between a Bible Christian and a disciple?

Answers for Lesson 4

1. *Yes*

2. *Faith*

3. *dead; devils*

4. *No*

5. *Those who do the will of God*

6. *Those who offend and do iniquity*

7. *wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts*

8. *repentance*

9. *Yes*

10. *do works fit for repentance*

11. *If you have two coats, give to the one who has none, the same with food (v. 11). Don't collect any more (taxes) than you are supposed to (v. 13).*

Do violence to no one, don't accuse people falsely, and be content with your pay (v.14).

12. *No*

13. *Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.*

14. *No*

15. *Yes.*

16. *They love one another.*

17. *They love one another.*

18. *Disciples*

19. *They baptized the converts immediately.*

20. *The converts were disciples.*

21. *All of them*

22. *All Christians*

23. *No*

24. *Keeping God's commandments*

25. *Christians*

26. *No*

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LESSON 5

Keeping Balanced

The Bible says we wrestle against the powers of darkness. As we push against the devil he may suddenly stop pushing against us and start pulling with us, to jerk us off balance, and pull us to the other extreme. If he cannot get us to be lazy, he may push us to the other extreme, working ourselves to death. He would be happy to have us in a premature grave. We would do *nothing* there.

If he cannot get us to be gluttons, he would be happy to hinder or destroy us through under eating or too much fasting. If he cannot get us to sleep when we should pray, he may make us feel guilty if we do not always get up early and stay up late. He may push us to set a schedule of staying up all night for prayer often.

We need to be circumspect. “See then that ye walk circumspectly” (Ephesians 5:15), that is, watching on all sides. Don’t just concentrate on one verse. Look at the whole counsel of God. Do not get off balance.

Let’s look at some Scriptures that will help us keep a Bible balance.

Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

1. What will Jesus give to those who are over-worked if they come to Him? _____
2. Is His yoke hard and heavy? _____
3. His yoke is _____ and His burden is _____.

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Psalm 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so He giveth His beloved sleep.

4. Is it useful to make a practice of rising early and going to bed late? _____

5. To do so is _____.

Ecclesiastes 7:16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

6. Is it possible to destroy yourself by too much fasting, too much study, too much work, and not enough rest? _____

7. Is God pleased with that? _____

Ecclesiastes 2:24 There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which He hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

8. Is it right and proper for us to enjoy some nice things as we serve Jesus? _____

1 Timothy 6:17,18

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

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18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate [share]....

9. Besides sharing with others, what does God want us to do with what He has given us?

1 Timothy 4:1-3

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils:

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

10. To insist that people (such as priests) may not marry is a doctrine of _____.

11. Telling others to be vegetarians is a doctrine of _____.

12. If I am going to deny myself and follow Jesus, does that mean I cannot enjoy food, eat meat, enjoy sexual pleasure in marriage? _____

God has given us His Word to show us right doctrine, to reprove false doctrine, to correct wrong living, and to instruct us in right living. A thorough knowledge of the Bible and following it will keep us balanced.

1 Timothy 3:16,17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness;

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

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