

## Disciple is a Verb

Matthew 4:18-25; 10:1-15; 28:16-20

September 25, 2011

Disciple =

I'm not talking about \_\_\_\_\_. I literally want you to \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Following Jesus is not:

Matthew 4: \_\_\_\_\_ folks are called to follow Jesus.

Following Jesus entails \_\_\_\_\_ things behind.

The work of Jesus' ministry: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Where are the disciples during this?

A disciple \_\_\_\_\_ from the Master.

The disciples are learning by Jesus' words but also by his \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 10: Go and \_\_\_ what you have \_\_\_\_\_.

Disciples \_\_\_\_\_ the things they have learned and are learning from the Master.

Matthew 28 charges: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Disciple is a \_\_\_\_\_ but it's also a \_\_\_\_\_. Both \_\_\_\_\_ we are and \_\_\_\_\_ we do.

## Prayer Concerns:

The United Methodist Church has a new emphasis on “Vital Congregations” that is inherently connected to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. The UMC has given the following guidelines:

A disciple of Jesus Christ:

1. Worships regularly (Presence)
2. Helps make new disciples (Witness)
3. Is engaged in growing their faith (Prayers)
4. Is engaged in mission (Service)
5. Shares by giving in mission (Gifts)

This week, we will look specifically at each of these aspects of being a disciple of Jesus. Notice that these connect directly to the membership vows of the UMC, to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

**Monday:** Read Psalm 84 (*Worships regularly*)

This psalm exudes joy and praise at being in God’s house to worship. It expresses a longing for God and a sense of feeling at home in God’s house. Try reading it out loud.

\*Do you come to worship with an attitude of joy and praise? Do you come to give thanks to God for all that God has done, is doing, and will do? Do you come with a longing to experience God’s presence?

\* Think about the way that you physically express yourself in worship. Do you sing with joy? Do you pray with fervor? Or do you sit back passively? What would need to happen for you to move from obligation and observation to joyful participation in worship?

**Tuesday:** Read Acts 2:37-47 (*Is engaged in growing their faith*)

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out onto the disciples, and they began to preach about God's deeds of power in the various languages of the people gathered. Peter then told the entire crowd about Jesus. This passage shows us what happened as a result: thousands of people were convicted and became disciples of Jesus. Verses 42-47 tell us what changes these people made in their lives upon becoming followers of Jesus.

\*What practices did these believers institute in their lives? How are you engaged in growing your faith? What is your involvement in Bible study, prayer, and mission? Could this Bible passage describe your life? Why or why not?

**Wednesday:** Read Luke 4:16-30 (*Is engaged in mission*)

This is the very beginning of Jesus' ministry in Luke, and he begins with a mission statement of what his ministry will entail. Notice that Jesus reads from Isaiah; his mission is not new, but is directly in line with God's mission from the very beginning.

\*In vv. 18-19 what does Jesus say he has come to do? Are you personally involved with the poor, the captive, the blind, or the oppressed? Why or why not? How might God be calling you to participate in God's mission?

\*How do the people react to Jesus' words? Have you ever encountered anger or hostility when you worked for God's mission? How did you react?

**Thursday:** Read Luke 19:1-10 (*Helps make new disciples*)

Jesus had a reputation of being a "friend of sinners," and this passage continues that theme. Tax collectors were despised in Jesus' day because they worked in collusion with the oppressive Roman government and often demanded high amounts of taxes from the people so that they could increase their own income. Notice that Zaccheus is a rich man.

\* Notice how the people react to Jesus' choice in verse 7. How do you react when you encounter people who have hurt you? How would you react to someone very different than you coming to church? Would you grumble and gossip or would you welcome?

\*Verse 10 is another mission statement of Jesus. Do you have a heart for the lost? How do you seek out the lost? How might God want you to seek out the lost so that they can be saved?

**Friday:** Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (*Shares by giving in mission*)  
In this letter, Paul tells the Corinthians about a collection that he is taking up for the believers in Jerusalem. Notice the language of joy, blessing, abundance, and generosity.

\*What is the attitude that Paul expects from them when they give? What is your attitude when you give?

\* In verse 8, Paul says that those who have enough can share abundantly. How do you define "enough?" How generously do you share the resources you have?

\* Who receives the honor and glory for all gifts? (v.15)

**Saturday:** Read 2 Timothy 1:3-14

Paul discipled the young man named Timothy, to whom this letter is addressed. Paul taught him, encouraged him, and took him on many of his missionary journeys to start and visit churches.

\*Who are some of the people named in this passage that discipled Timothy? Who are the people within your family or outside of your family who have discipled you in the name of Jesus? Make a list of them and the ways they helped you grow as a disciple of Jesus. Consider calling them or getting in touch with them to let them know how they have influenced your life.

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