

dis·ci·ple

Disciple: Against All Odds

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[Genesis 12](#)

[Matthew 28:18-20](#)

[Acts 1:6-8](#)

To understand the way that the Jesus Way made it across the entire Roman Empire you need to understand the ways of Jesus.

Jesus' strategy for releasing His Kingdom into the world was rooted in the rabbinic model of first century Judaism.

The best could apply to follow a rabbi. If accepted, they were called a disciple, or in hebrew, "talmidim".

Had to Commit to 4 things

- Memorizing the words of their rabbi
- Adopting the worldview of their rabbi
- Imitating the practices of their rabbi
- Committing to make disciples of their own in the way of their rabbi

When Jesus called the Twelve to "follow" Him and to be "with Him", He was inviting them to do those four things.

[2 Timothy 2:2](#)- Jesus model was to invest in a few

The early church offered a way of life that stood in stark contrast to the power of the empire, and they attracted the attention of the world in the way that they cared for the sick and marginalized.

2000 years later Jesus is still building His church

Growing through people who are committed to being:

- Students of the words of Jesus
- Imitators of the ways of Jesus
- Partners in the mission of Jesus

Go make disciples of all nations. [Matthew 28:19-20](#)

The Words of Jesus

Jesus has come to fulfill the law - [Matthew 5:17-20](#)

[John 1:1](#) - Jesus embodies the entirety of scripture.

How do you become a student of the Word of Jesus?

- **Read** scripture to understand scope and story
- **Study** scripture immersing ourselves in the world of Jesus to better understand the words of Jesus.
- **Meditate** on the text, to ignite our imaginations, to engage our wills, and shape our hearts.
- **Memorize** to internalize it, so that the Holy Spirit can bring it to memory at the appropriate time and we can draw it for guidance and wisdom.

The Ways of Jesus

An imitator of the ways of Jesus seeks to do what Jesus did the way that He did it.

Are we following Jesus like He's posting to Instagram or are we following Him like our lives depended on it?

Jesus did not call us to be fans but to be followers.

Jesus did not ask us to simply be in philosophical agreement with Him but to be in action with Him.

“Jesus is not a food additive. He doesn’t come to improve your life. He’s come to be your life.” - Earl Creps

Jesus wants to be a part of every area of your life.

It’s not enough to just know the words of Jesus. We have to obey them. Information alone does not transform us. Activation of that information transforms us.

It’s putting the words of Jesus into practice. Striving to do things the way He went about doing them.

The Mission of Jesus

Partner in the mission of Jesus - what He came to do - the unleashing of His Kingdom - the bringing of Heaven to Earth - that the Father’s will, will be done and His Kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven.

[Luke 4:18-19](#) - *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*

Jesus doesn’t just save us **from** something He calls us **to** something.

When we study the **words** of Jesus, walk in the **ways** of Jesus, partner in the **mission** of Jesus, we see the flourishing of communities and the impact ripples across generations.

Discipleship is:

- fueled by the Holy Spirit.
- rooted in relationship.
- matured through a process.
- marked by integration.
- measured by multiplication.

The invitation is to live our lives based on the words, the ways, and the mission of Jesus.

Go and Do

Jesus picks the normal average person to be His disciple. That is me, and that is you!

A PRAYER to PRAY: Jesus, I am ready to stop going my own way and ready to come home and to share the road with you. I am ready to lay down the rights to my own life and submit to your rule and reign. I am ready to allow your words to give shape to how I view the world. I am ready to do what you did, the way that you did it. Thank you for the cross. I give you all of my life-- all of my sin/ And receive from you—all of your righteousness. Thank you for the resurrection—I give you my life and step into a new life in you today. Thank you for saving me. In Jesus' name amen

For more info about following Jesus, go to ncc.re/followJesus

---To dig deeper:

Sermon Discussion Guide: ncc.re/discuss

NCC Daily: national.cc/daily

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