

WEEK 4:
WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

MISSION
CRITICAL

We are a **church** on mission
to raise up **WHO** disciple makers
SHARE THE GOSPEL
where we
live, work & play



MITCHELL BEREAN

MISSION CRITICAL: WEEK 4

Open in Prayer

Open each week with prayer. This campaign is focused on the idea of living with God's heart for His mission. This is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit, and must begin in prayer.

Watch the Video for Week 4 Together

Video is found on RightNow Media, YouTube and mitchellberean.com/mission

Small Group Discussion

What is a Disciple? *A lifelong follower, student, example, and teacher of Jesus Christ*

1. A Follower
2. A Student
3. An Example
4. A Teacher

Our mission statement as a church is as follows:

We are a **church** on mission
to raise up **WHO** disciple makers
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In this week's sermon we saw how Jesus defines following Him, or being his disciple, throughout the Gospels. There can be so many definitions given for discipleship, however when we look at the words of Christ it becomes fairly simple. Just because it is simple, however, does not mean that it is easy! Are you following Christ and a disciple according to His definition?

Questions to Consider

1. A Follower

Read Luke 9:23-24 *Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.*

Here Jesus lays out what it will cost to be His disciple: ultimately, your whole life. This is not a one time surrender, but a lifelong surrender to His purposes.

Do you feel as if you have “lost your life for Christ?” This does not mean a perfect surrender, but a decision to live a life of total surrender. Why?

How do you think God is calling you to deny yourself? What practical steps can you take?

Do you find yourself measuring yourself against other Christians? Why or why not?

Cross References:

Luke 14:26-33

“If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’ “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

Galatians 5:17

The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

2 Corinthians 10:12

Oh, don’t worry; we wouldn’t dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!



2. A Student

Read John 15:1-8 *I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."*

Picking up our cross and denying ourselves is impossible without the grace of God. In this passage, Jesus lays out how we can continue to be His disciple and not burn out.

What does your current study of the Word of God look like? Prayer? Scripture memorization? Do you see your need to abide in the Word of God in order to follow Christ?

How do you know if you are living by the grace of God or by your own strength?

Cross References:

1 Peter 2:2 *Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment*

Psalms 119:111 *Your laws are my treasure; they are my heart's delight.*

1 Corinthians 15:10 *But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.*

3. An Example

Read John 13:34-35 *"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*

Having knowledge of God is great, but living out the truth we know is most important. Demonstrating this love starts with our church family!

How can you move past superficial love and move into Christ-like love within the church?

What holds you back from demonstrating Christ-like love?

Cross References:

1 Corinthians 13

John 15:13 *There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*



4. A Teacher

Read Matthew 28:18-20 *Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Pastor Jon broke down this Scripture, and this should have already been thoroughly discussed and meditated on!

Are you making steps to become a "teacher" of Jesus Christ? How?

Cross Reference:

Hebrews 5:12-14 *You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.*

Group Fellowship & Prayer

Discuss. As you pray and discuss this week's sermon and questions with one another, please try to be vulnerable.

Pray. Spend some time exchanging prayer requests and minister to one another's needs.

Hang out. Getting to know one another is a vital part of obtaining God's heart to strengthen the church and reach the lost.

Weekly Challenge

Deny ourselves and pick up our cross. We cannot be a disciple of Christ without denying ourselves and picking up our cross. It is not easy to be a Christian, it cost Jesus His life to pay for your salvation. He is asking you to give up your life of sin and control and embrace His life of peace and righteousness. I encourage you to identify something in your life that may or not be "sinful" but occupies much of your time. Once you have identified an activity or habit, I encourage you to give up that activity for a week and replace that activity with prayer, Bible study, or investing in your family. This is a spiritual discipline called fasting, that helps us deny ourselves and embrace the Gospel. Fasting is not only concerned with food, but anything that can be a sacrifice towards God concerning our time and effort. After a week, sit down and journal about what you learned during this time of fasting.

