

ARE YOU A FOLLOWER-
REALLY?



Are You a Follower-Really?

John 1:35-42

You can't make it through much of the Bible without coming to the word Disciple. Just the four Gospels alone use this term 228 times.

Basically a disciple is the follower of a teacher: one who observes, learns, and practices what the teacher shares.

Are You a Follower-Really?

John 1:35-42

We now come to the first time John uses this term in his book. So today we assess ourselves by asking, "Are YOU a follower?" Let's look at five characteristics of the first disciples of Jesus and see if they're reflected in our lives.

Juan Carlos Otiz

According to Juan Carlos Ortiz, in his book "Disciple," a disciple is someone who follows Jesus Christ. Just because we are Christians doesn't mean we are disciples, even if we are member of His Kingdom In recent centuries, we've been hearing another gospel:

Juan Carlos Otiz

A man-centered, human gospel. The gospel of the hot sale. The gospel of the irresistible deal.

But all Jesus says to us is, “Follow Me”

He doesn't say where or how much He'll pay us.

He just gives us the command.”

Follow Me

Jesus said, "Follow Me." The term is used the first time in vs.35. Follow is used 3x in this text.

Our problem is we are not keen on following.

We want control. Surrendering our will to another is against our human nature.

GK Chesterton

“It’s not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting, the truth is Christianity has been found difficult and not tried”

Discipleship is not an easy road

Following Jesus is not always easy. Luke 9:23 says we must deny self and take up our cross daily. We live in a culture of self-indulgence, not self-denial.

Discipleship comes in stages as we are transformed into His image.

Discipleship- A lifelong process of conformity to an alien will.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

1. Transition (vss.35-37)

Every Believer Should be a Disciple

2. Evaluation (vs. 38)

Every Disciple Must Sift Motives

Do a Bible Study on the Questions of God

Who do you have in your life that will ask you the hard questions?

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

Socrates “The unexamined life
is not worth living.”

2 Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves to see
if your faith is really genuine."

A.W. Tozer “The Pursuit of God”-

"Complacency is a deadly enemy of spiritual
growth. Acute desire must be present or there
will be no manifestation of Christ to His people.
He wants to be wanted."

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

3. Submission (vss. 38-39)

True Disciples Respond to Scriptural Commands

The real test of a disciple is submission.

Luke chapter 6 Jesus said, “Why do you call Me Lord and you don't do the things that I tell you?”

Lordship means He's the boss-He's in charge-
God isn't our co-pilot-You give Him the keys-
He runs the thing.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

4. Mission (vss. 40-41)

Disciples Want to Make Other Disciples

What do we know about Andrew?

Every time you find Andrew in the Gospels, you know what you're going to find him doing?

Bringing people to Jesus.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

4. Mission (vss. 40-41)

He brought Simon Peter to Jesus

He was the disciple who found the boy with four loaves and two fish and brought him to Jesus.

He's the guy who, in chapter 12, takes a group of Greek seekers and brings them to Jesus.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

5. Transformation (vs. 42)

Disciples Don't Stay in a Rut; They Grow

Verse 42-46 - Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, 'You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be Cephas' (which is translated, A Stone)."

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

Peter was with Jesus on the Mt. of
Transfiguration

In the garden of Gethsemane

On the rooftop in Joppa, Acts chapter 10

Jesus looks at people, He sees the potential

He became a leader in the early church.

He became the author of two New Testament
epistles.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

He became the source for the gospel of Mark.

He preached on Pentecost and he had such a rock solid faith and rock solid commitment that he was crucified upside down and did not deny his Lord.

The more you are dissolved into Christ and lose you and become dominated by an alien will, the more useful you will become to God's kingdom.

Five Characteristics of a Disciple

1. Transition

Principle-every believer should be a disciple

2. Evaluation

Principle-every true disciple must shift through his or her own motivation for following

Five Characteristics of a Disciple

3. Submission

Principle – true disciples respond to Scriptural commands

4. Mission

Principle – disciples want to make other disciples

Five Characteristics of a Disciple

5. Transformation

Principle – Disciples don't stay in a rut
They grow