

Discipleship

Lesson #04

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Dean Bible Ministries

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# DISCIPLESHIP

## IMITATORS OF CHRIST

**Are We Willing to be Obedient?**  
**Luke 9:22–25; 57–62**

**μαθητής *mathētēs***

**learner, pupil, disciple, student**

- 1. Called but do not believe.**
- 2. Called and do believe.**
- 3. Called follow intermittently, but are not convinced to continue.**
- 4. Convinced but comfortable and complacent. Convinced, but not committed.**
- 5. Committed and produce varying degrees of fruit.**

**Mark 1:17, “Then Jesus said to them,  
‘Follow Me, and I will make you become  
fishers of men.’ ”**

**Luke 5:11, “So when they had brought their  
boats to land, they forsook all and followed  
Him.”**

**John 6:66, “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.**

**John 6:67, “Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do y’all also want to go away?’ ”**

**John 6:68, “But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

**John 6:69, “ ‘Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the living God.’ ”**

**Deut. 7:9, “Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;” [Deut. 5:10]**

**Deut. 11:1, “Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always”**

**Deut. 11:22, “For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—” [Deut. 19:9; 26:17; 30:16]**

**Legalism is the idea that by our obedience to God's Word we merit God's blessing.**

**“I'm going to ... read my Bible, go to church, witness, give, be good, etc. so God will bless me.”**

**Legalism is the idea that by our obedience to God's Word we merit God's blessing.**

**Grace is recognizing God has already, blessed us with every spiritual blessing. This is a potential, and our response to His grace enables us to develop the capacity to experience and enjoy His blessings.**

**I'm going to do x because God has already richly blessed me and I need to learn about this and develop the capacity to enjoy what He has freely given me.**

**Matt. 21:28, “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’**

**Matt. 21:29, “He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he regretted it and went.**

**Matt. 21:30, “Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.**

**Matt. 21:31, “ ‘Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said to Him, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.’ ”**

**Matt. 18:3, “and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.’ ”**

# 1. Luke 9:23–25

**Luke 9:23, “Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’ ”**

**Mark 8:34, “When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, ‘Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.’ ”**

**IF, assuming you do want to be a disciple:**

**1. Self-denial**

**2. Take up your cross daily**

**3. Follow Me**

# **“Self-Denial”**

**Walk by the Spirit, Gal. 5:16**

**Reckon Yourselves Dead to Sin, Rom. 6:11**

**Exchange the Truth of God’s Word for the  
lies and fantasies of the world around us,  
Rom. 12:2**

**Rom. 12:2, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

# **“Take Up Your Cross”**

## **Submit to God’s Authority**

**Phil. 2:8, “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”**

# **“Follow Me”**

- **Humility = Submission to God’s authority, God’s plan**
- **Obedience – to God**
- **Imitation of Christ,  
1 Cor. 11:1, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”**
- **Character transformation, Gal. 5:22–23**

**Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”**

**Luke 9:24, “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.**

**Luke 9:25, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?”**

**Luke 9:26, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.”**

**Luke 9:57–62: Four examples of disciple failure.**

**Example 1: Culture got in the way**

**Luke 9:51, “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,**

**Luke 9:52, “and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.**

**Luke 9:53, “But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.”**

**Example 2: Comfort was more important,  
no self-denial.**

**Luke 9:57, “Now it happened as they  
journeyed on the road, that someone said  
to Him, ‘Lord, I will follow You wherever  
You go.’”**

**Luke 9:58, “And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes  
have holes and birds of the air have nests,  
but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His  
head.’”**

**Example 3: Other commitments were a distraction. Not willing to submit and obey.**

**Luke 9:59, “Then He said to another, ‘Follow Me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, let me first go and bury my father.’”**

**Luke 9:60, “Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.’ ”**

**Example 4: Other commitments were a distraction. Not willing to submit and obey.**

**Luke 9:61, “And another also said, ‘Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.’”**

**Luke 9:62, “But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’”**