

### ***Discipleship Study***

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

A disciple's life of following Jesus can be summed up in the disciples cross illustration to the right. In this illustration, there are five essential principles disciple's life; Christ, the Word, prayer, fellowship, and witness.

Obeying each principle will lead the follower of Jesus to put into practice the ministries of a disciple.

Each week leading to Easter, we have been studying one of the five aspects of the Disciples Cross illustration above. This week we come to the final principle, witnessing to the world.



**The Disciples Cross**

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#### **Witness to the World: Our Horizontal Relationship with People**

The disciple of Christ will be led by God to be a witness to the world. God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son, and now he sends us, His disciples, out with His message.

- John 15:8, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."
- Matthew 4:19, "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
- John 20:21, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
- Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

There is a reason that witnessing to the world is the final aspect we will discuss in the disciples cross illustration. It is not that it is less important but rather that it is critical that before I can be an effective witness I must first have Christ firmly remain in the center of my life and I must remain in Him. Remaining in Christ comes as a result of the Holy Spirit working in me as I live in the Word, pray to the Father in faith, and remain in fellowship with other believers. Then the Holy Spirit works in me to be an effective witness of the Gospel. Make no mistake; the Holy Spirit is the one who empowers me to witness to the world. It is not my knowledge or my charisma that will draw people to the Lord but it is God Himself that draws people. (Read John 6:44)

- Read the scriptures on the previous page; John 15:8, Matt 4:19, John 20:21, and Acts 1:8. What do those teach you about God's will for your life?

**I find these verses convicting. I want to think, being on a mission with God, witnessing and being used by Him is the job for someone else. But His divine plan was to use my life and yours to rescue the lost.**

- Read John 15:16, what has Jesus chosen us to do? What is fruit? (Read Galatians 5:22-23) How does bearing fruit connect with witnessing to the world? (Check out John 13:34-35, Matt 25:34-36))

He has not just asked, he has appointed me. He is calling me to bear fruit that will last, eternal fruit. Galatians 5:22-23 tells me that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. I believe that if I live according to the Spirit (keep in step with) letting Him guide me and transform me bearing spiritual fruit a watching world around me will notice (John 13:34-35). Not only that, if I am really bearing these types of fruit then I will without a doubt reach out and have an effect people's lives in a good way as Jesus has revealed in Matthew 25:34-36.

- Read Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission. Did Jesus intend this message for you? If so then what impact should that message have on your life?

I believe He is talking to anyone who would call themselves His disciples (followers). So I believe he is absolutely talking to me. That means I am called to be on a co-mission with Jesus to make disciples throughout the world starting right here. This should change the way I do everything in life. How I spend my time, my money, and my energy. My passion should be to show people Jesus and the gospel message and then to walk along side them in discipleship knowing the Jesus is with me all the way. To use a poker term and yes I love to play poker (for fun, not for money); I must be "ALL IN".

- Read Matthew 9:35-38, what does this teach you about Jesus? What does it teach you about you, His called people?

He is compassionate and hurts for the lost. He depends on the Father to send the workers, and He knows that the time is right for people to hear the message.

It tells me that Jesus is praying for you (even now as you read this) that you would respond to His call and be His witness to the world. There are so many hurting and lost people around us and throughout the world, that the job is so huge how can you wait one more moment to join Christ on this passionate mission He has called us to? Go "ALL IN" as a witness to the world.

Each day of the week I am asking you to read the scripture and in a journal or notebook answer the following two simple questions:

- What God Said to Me: (My Discovery from His Word)
- What I Said to God: (My Prayer Response)

Daily Bible Reading for the Week: *Examples of being a witness by the Apostles*

- Day 1: Acts 2:14-41
- Day 2: Acts 3
- Day 3: Acts 4:1-22
- Day 4: Acts 8:26-40
- Day 5: Acts 16:11-34

I included the Roman Road as one way to share the good news. Of course there are many other ways such as the "Steps to Peace with God" from Billy Graham or there is the "Four Spiritual Laws" and they are all good but remember that just letting God lead you is always the best. Turning to God in prayer, living in His Word, and letting God's love shine through you will be the most effective witness you can make.

### **Roman Road: The Highway to a Relationship with God**

Below is a great way to understand and share the gospel message – God's plan of salvation set forth in Paul's letter to the Romans. Also known as the Roman Road, the following is a collection of passages that build a beautiful and systematic approach to the gospel of grace by and through Jesus Christ. Take time today to learn this powerful message of grace as Paul has presented it from the book of Romans.

### **Roman Road: The Gospel of Grace (FOLLOW ME)**

**Romans 1:20-21:** "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." We must acknowledge God as the Creator of everything and accept our humble position in God's creation.

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God." We must all realize that we are sinners and that we need forgiveness. We are not worthy of God's grace.

**Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Through Jesus, God gave us a way to be saved from our sins. God showed us His love by giving us the potential for life through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ.

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." If we remain sinners, we will die. However, if we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and repent of our sins, we will have eternal life.

**Romans 10:9-10** "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Just confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved!

**Romans 10:13** "For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." There are no religious formulas or rituals -- Call upon the name of the Lord and you will be saved!

**Romans 11:36:** "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." Determine in your heart to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life today.

### **Roman Road: Are You Ready to Accept God's Gift of Salvation?**

If you truly believe the message of the Roman Road, and want to accept God's gift of salvation right now, it's a matter of repenting of your sins and turning the rest of your life over to Jesus Christ. Again, this is not a ritual based on any specific words or prayers, but rather, a willful decision and a sincere step of faith.