



## Sermon, Sunday July 4, 2021, "The Disciples of Jesus"

**SCRIPTURE: John 1:35-51** <sup>31</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

### **Introduction: We are disciples of Jesus.**

The beginning of Jesus' ministry, as shown in the Gospel of John, was modest. Jesus began His first ministry by meeting ordinary people of lowly status. However, the disciples are transformed and grow through their encounter with Jesus, and they bear amazing fruits.

Christians are those who live their lives as disciples of Jesus. And the life of a true disciple is proved by the fruit that is borne of this truth. There were no exceptions for those who confessed Jesus as the Messiah in the Gospels, and there were amazing changes and abundant fruits. Therefore, we have to think about the part that has changed since we met the Lord. In addition, we must be able to share our abundant life with our neighbors after meeting the Lord.

Through today's sermon, let's look at what we, who are called to be disciples of the Lord, must do in order to bear abundant fruit. First, let's see what the basic life of a disciple of Jesus is.

### **Body: Life as a Disciple of Jesus**

#### **1. A true disciple wants to be with the master.**

Let's look at today's text, the Gospel of John chapter 1 verse 38. **"When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'what are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are you staying?'"**



In this verse Jesus asks the two disciples of John the Baptist, “What are you looking for?” They had heard from John that Jesus was the Lamb of God, after which they begin to follow Jesus.

According to this verse, two disciples of John the Baptist ask Jesus "Where are you staying?" They ask "Where is Jesus staying?", because they want to be with Him. One of John the Baptist's two disciples was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. After meeting Jesus, he tells his brother Peter that he has met the Messiah. And he accompanies Peter to see Jesus.

A true disciple stays with his master and learns everything through his life. And they must be able to accept the teacher's teachings with patience. Of Jesus' 12 disciples, only Judas Iscariot could not overcome the process. The most fundamental reason is that he insisted on following his own thoughts rather than trying to learn and follow the thoughts of Jesus.

Therefore, as disciples of the Lord, what should we be most careful about in our Christian life? We must beware of failing to receive the word of eternal life in our hearts. Also, we must beware of failing to acknowledge Jesus as our savior.

**Jesus says in the Gospel of John 12:26, “Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”**

The first virtue required of a follower of Jesus is to be with Jesus, learn and follow His life, and accept His wisdom with humility. When our thoughts take precedence over the Lord's, we can never become true disciples.

Then, what is another aspect of life as a disciple of Jesus? It is to testify of Jesus to the world.

## **2. The disciples testify of Jesus to the world.**

Let's look at the Gospel of John chapter 1 verses 45 through 46.

**Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."(V.45)**

**"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.(V.46)**

In this verse, Philip, who met Jesus, testifies of Jesus to Nathanael.

Disciples of Jesus must be able to testify to the world about the Lord our Savior, with joy. We must preach the good news that Jesus died on the cross for us, conquered death and rose again. When we testify of Jesus, the Savior, to the world, we experience the amazing work of the Holy Spirit.

Then, how should we prepare to testify of Jesus to the world?

### **1) We should have a heart of love for one soul.**

Human life was not given without purpose, but under the clear plan of the Lord. And life in this world is not the end. Humans are promised eternal life from the Lord. Also, all human beings will stand before the judgment seat of the Lord. Therefore, the disciple of Jesus should have a heart of love for one soul.

### **2) We should have a confidence of faith.**

When we preach Jesus to the world, we need confidence in Jesus as our Savior. But we need to know that evangelism is ultimately accomplished by His will, not because of our efforts.

### **3) Also, we should pray for our works and for our community.**



If we pray, we can love each other, and if we pray, we can encourage each other. Through this process, the Lord's children come to know Jesus better and follow Him better.

#### **4) Furthermore, we should have a genuine heart in front of the Lord.**

The heart of a true disciple is a genuine heart. What is a genuine heart? We cannot be free from prejudice, but we can have a heart that is willing to try to get rid of prejudice. Also, we cannot just say we want to know the truth, but we must take responsibility for truth. To take responsibility for truth means that we are willing to suffer and we are devoted to keeping the truth. Furthermore, we are not just saying to the Lord that we want to be healed of a sick body or mind, but we must follow the Lord's prescription, which is a true and genuine heart.

This is how Jesus treats us when we try to be with Jesus and testify of Him to the world.

#### **Conclusion: The Blessings Jesus Gives to Us**

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Jesus warmly welcomes everyone who comes to Him and is always with us. Also, Jesus works with us as we testify of Him to the world. Furthermore, He allows wonderful things for us.

**Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that."(John 1:50).**

In today's text, the disciples of Jesus who went to follow Jesus were ordinary people, but they became the rock of the church, apostles of love, and loyal servants of Jesus Christ.

In the same way, the Lord is with us today and will show us amazing things and will accomplish what He wants through us. I hope such blessings come upon all of us.

