

# A View on Discipleship

## *“A Work in Progress”*

### **Introduction:**

Stemming from a recognition of God’s call and a personal enjoyment of Evangelism and First Principles of the Faith, a former pastor encouraged me that “if a church was built on these two items it would be a healthy church.” I have personally walked with people on their journey from unbelievers to be healthy, vibrant, and mature Christians. A favorite tool is an edited John MacArthur’s study guide “The Fundamentals of the Faith.”

### **Defined:**

Webster’s Definition of a Disciple- “a follower who accepts his master’s teachings and helps to spread them”

Synonym- “learner, student, pupil, attendant, adherent, proselyte, and follower”

Hebrew/Aramaic- (limmud) “learned, taught, trained, skilled, and accustomed”  
Greek- (mathetes) “a learner, pupil, an adherent who accepts the instruction given him and makes it his rule of conduct”

Webster’s Definition of Assimilation- “to make or become similar or alike. To take up and absorb.”

Synonym- “take in, absorb, soak up, (intake); make similar, homologize, standardize, and to make one”

Summed up: The saints that are equipped for the work of the ministry who “go and do likewise.”

### **Scriptural Examples:**

Parents & Children- (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Ephesians 6:1-4).

Joshua serving Moses, then eventually leading Israel.

Elisha serving Elijah, then eventually being a prophet to Israel.

As Andrew did with his brother Peter, pointing people to Christ one at a time through relationships.

Jesus and the Apostles

## **Practical Application:**

*John 8:31-32*

31 “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**” <sup>1</sup>

*Acts 2:41-47*

41 ”Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.  
42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. 44 And all that believed were together, and had all things common; 45 And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. 46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” <sup>2</sup>

## **End Results:**

Lifestyle evangelism- everything of Jesus in a whole life, family, and church brought to bear into a person's life.

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<sup>1</sup>*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

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## **A Natural Example:**

I saw a documentary, then read the book, “The Man Who Listens to Horses” by Monty Roberts. The author had a revolutionary impact on how wild horses are “broken”, or rather “released to be able to accept a rider”. He comes in with an understanding of the creature, language, and circumstance.

In a nutshell, and put in my personal terms, this is how I relate this concept to discipleship. I believe that this is consistent with Jesus’ example of Holy Spirit-led ministry. This whole process can take minutes or even years. I believe that crisis is one of the best opportunities to reach people for the Lord, as they are looking for answers to obtain help and stability for their lives in their time of need.

**First**, A Discippler comes along side an individual’s life. This is done by grasping opportunities and having sensitivity to the Lord’s voice. The underlying foundation is the understanding how people react to *crisis*; they either “fight or flight”. In the midst of their individual situations there is the opportunity to point them to the scriptures so it becomes a crisis of belief. This is the opportunity to believe in God.

**Second**, it is established that they are lost and the Discippler is an anchor at the crisis moment. Then prayerfully and patiently moving forward sharing the Word “walking the extra mile”, the people proceed to go around the truth until they are tired of fighting with the Lord and are ready to receive with simple obedience the commands of God’s Word. This gets them moving them in the right direction to Jesus.

**Third**, when the people see that you are still the trustworthily servant standing by, the Discippler can lead them into further commitments with lifestyle evangelism and fellowship the primary influencing factors.

A life is the happiest and most functional when it is intimately and fully submitted to the Lordship of Christ, part of the Body of Christ, and obeying God’s Word.