

# COURAGEOUS DISCIPLESHIP

## STUDIES IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

Part 1—“The Courage to Repent”  
24 February 2019

### Introduction

- In order for Christians to challenge the culture with the Gospel, we need to be \_\_\_\_\_ of some important biblical imagery.  
⇒ **We are \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ!**
- In today's world, we are prone to define ourselves primarily in terms of our \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because of this, \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ is considered to be the greatest thing a person can possess and external \_\_\_\_\_ is the primary means by which it is both acquired and maintained.

**Key Point:** The identity of a disciple is bound up with the identity of his/her \_\_\_\_\_.! As Christians, we can live with courage because we are being equipped and empowered by the Lord Jesus who is at work in us and through us for His glory!

### Defining Discipleship

“Disciple”—μαθητής (*mathētēs*) — One who directs their mind towards something and is engaged in learning. This learning “consists in the appropriation or adoption of specific knowledge or conduct that proceeds deliberately and according to a set plan. There is no [disciple] without a [teacher]. The process involves a corresponding personal relation.” - TDNT

**Important Observation:** Discipleship is distinguished from education in general because of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of the master/pupil relationship.

### Discipleship in the First Century A.D.

Greco-Roman:

Jewish:

### Some Biblical Observations:

- \* The term *mathētēs* is not found in the LXX and ‘disciple’ is found only 1-2 times in the OT of most English translations.
- \* Although *mathētēs* is used frequently in the NT, it is found only in the 4 gospels and Acts.
- \* It is also used of others besides Jesus’ disciples, including the followers of both John the Baptist and of the Pharisees.

### The Uniqueness of Jesus as a Master

1. Jesus’ first and foremost offer to His disciples is not a cause or a body of instruction, it is \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt. 4:23—Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Matt. 11:28-29—<sup>28</sup> “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus employs in the discipleship process are distinct.

⇒ He models \_\_\_\_\_ in a unique way. (Matt. 14:22-23; 21:12-13)

⇒ He teaches with unique \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 5:21-22; 27-28; 33-34)

⇒ He uniquely \_\_\_\_\_ His disciples for ministry. (Matt. 10:5-15; 28:18-20)

3. Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ of His disciples is distinct.

Matt. 4:18-20—<sup>18</sup> Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And He \*said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Matt. 9:9—As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector’s booth; and He \*said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him.

## **Repentance: The Foundation of Discipleship**

**“Repentance”**—**μετάνοια** (*metanoia*) — A change of mind; a turning away from one thing towards something else (conversion).  
Repentance involves a turning from one’s own way, agreeing with what God says to be true, and acting accordingly.

### **Matthew 3:1-12 — John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus**

#### **Observations:**

1. The focus of John’s message was the necessity of repentance in order to receive \_\_\_\_\_ and His blessings.

Matt. 3:2—“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

2. Repentance involved both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sin.

Matt. 3:5-6— <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; <sup>6</sup>and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

3. Repentance was to have an \_\_\_\_\_ quality that produced lasting change.

Matt. 3:8—Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

4. Repentance involved a radical challenge to one’s \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt. 3:9—and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

### **Matthew 4:12-22 — Jesus Begins His Ministry**

#### **Observations:**

1. Jesus own message \_\_\_\_\_ the message of John the Baptist.

Matt. 4:17—From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

2. The calling of Jesus’ first disciples came after His \_\_\_\_\_ of the necessity of repentance.

Matt. 4:21—Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

3. His disciples recognized that repentance involved a radical \_\_\_\_\_ of their identity.

Matt. 4:22—Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

## **Principles for Courageous Discipleship**

- The discipleship process is by definition centered on our \_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord Jesus.
- We must recognize that discipleship involves repenting of our \_\_\_\_\_ understandings of our own identity.
- We must recognize that discipleship involves a \_\_\_\_\_ attitude of repentance whereby we recognize and confess our sin and turn again in faith towards the Lord Jesus.

Col. 2:6-7—<sup>6</sup>Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “Repent” (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.” - Martin Luther