



Course Name: SALT Discipleship Lesson 4 - Living as a Disciple and Preparing to Serve
By Mike Vaughn

Course description:

This course covers the Biblical commands related to living as a disciple of Jesus and preparing ourselves to serve. Living as a disciple is key to being prepared to make disciples.

Course Objectives: By the end of this class students will have:

- A. Discussed the Biblical view of living as a disciple.
- B. Developed an understanding that we can all live a Christian lifestyle if we choose.
- C. Gained greater knowledge of how to be effective and fruitful in the Kingdom.

Outline of the class: Divide the class into three groups. After reading through passages below, ask each group to spend about 10-15 minutes to write out or list their responses to the discussion questions below. Then, have each group share their findings with the whole class.

A. We are clearly told how to live so we can be effective and fruitful

2 Peter 1:5-8 “For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

B. Christian attributes described by Jesus - Matthew 5

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

C. The Christian lifestyle as described by Jesus - Matthew 5

1. **Be salt and light:** “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world” vv. 13-14.
2. **Don’t be angry with a brother:** “...everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment” v. 22.
3. **Don’t lust:** “...everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart” v. 28.
4. **Don’t retaliate:** “Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also” v. 39.
5. **Love your enemies:** “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” v. 44.
6. **Give to the needy:** “But when you give to the needy...” Matthew 6:3.

D. The Christian lifestyle as described in James

1. 1:12 “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial...”
2. 1:19 “Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”
3. 1:27 “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”
4. 2:8 “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
5. 2:9 “...if you show partiality, you are committing sin.”
6. 2:17 “...faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
7. 3:14 “...bitter jealousy and selfish ambition...do not boast and be false to the truth.”
8. 3:17 “The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”

E. Example of the Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

F. Contrast joy with happiness and contentment

1. Happiness depends on circumstances.
2. Contentment doesn't necessarily involve happiness or joy.
3. Joyful is how we are called to live our lives - (compassion.com).
4. The true definition of joy goes beyond the limited explanation presented in a dictionary — “a feeling a great pleasure and happiness.” True joy is a limitless, life-defining, transformative reservoir waiting to be tapped into. It requires the utmost surrender and, like love, is a choice to be made.
5. A fruit of the Spirit. Comforting, content and full of peace. An enduring attitude of the heart and spirit, and a natural part of the Christian faith.

G. How do you view situations in life?

Psalm 112: 6-7 “For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.”

Discussion Question 1: In your community, what stands out about you that signals you are a Christian?

Discussion Question 2: Do you view life as a series of ups and downs where God is with you more at times than others or sometimes absent? - Or - Do you view life with ups and downs in parallel with an unchanging relationship with God?

Discussion Question 3: Think about your “purpose” as a Christian - Which Christian attributes will best help you connect with others?

Conclusion:

- A. Living a joyful life with all the Christian attributes prepares us to serve as a disciple-maker.
- B. A Christian lifestyle will be noticed by others and we can be effective and fruitful.
- C. Getting people's attention is the first step to them wanting to be a Christian.