

# Discipleship

Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and *make disciples* of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and *teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Matt 28: 18–20

“.....A *talmid* wants to [be] like the teacher, that is to become what the teacher is. That meant that students were passionately devoted to their rabbi and noted everything he did or said. This meant the *rabbi/talmid* relationship was a very intense and personal system of education. As the rabbi lived and taught his understanding of the Scripture his students (*talmidim*) listened and watched and imitated so as to become like him. Eventually they would become teachers passing on a lifestyle to their *talmidim*.”

Ray VanderLaan

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word” Heb 1:3

## JESUS...

Amazing, fierce, passionate, humourous, sharp, loving, patient, kind, astounding, knowing, wise, gentle, true, uncompromising, strong, prayerful, glorious, empathic, committed, loyal, creative, challenging, forgiving, merciful, powerful, joyous, courageous, peace-filled, disruptive, generous, extravagant, wonderful, miracle-maker, healer, restorer, reconciler, giver, sustainer, holy, good, influencer, deep, beautiful, creator, life-giving, righteous, playful, compassionate, humble, sacrificial, inviting, Lord of all, name above all names, faithful, friend, brother, embracing, victorious, king of kings.....

*Who wouldn't want to be his disciple???*

*A familiar passage...*

‘Therefore everyone who *hears these words of mine and puts them into practice* is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.’

Matt 7: 24–27

## Some key themes in Jesus' teaching...

- **Kingdom values** – e.g. love, forgiveness, grace, mercy, righteousness, laid-down life, prayerfulness, generosity
- **Kingdom character** – e.g. resilience (being unoffendable!), compassion, persistence, humility, self-control, honesty, courage
- **Kingdom power** – operating in the authority of Jesus – e.g. miracles, healings, authority over evil spirits

*“...be transformed by the renewing of your mind”*

## The context of our discipleship....

- Here and now
- Daily and minute-by-minute surrender to Him
- Knowing the gospels and the teachings of Jesus inside out
- Changing the way we think
- Being interrupted and inconvenienced!
- Taking courage – love conquering fear

# “Making” disciples....



Not analogous to  
catching a sheep  
and putting it in a  
pen!

More like introducing the  
sheep to the shepherd so  
that it will get to know his  
voice and learn to follow  
wherever he leads it



# Response

- Is today the day you would like to become a disciple of Jesus?
- Disciples...Catch yourself thinking, what is the Holy Spirit drawing your attention to?
- How well do you know Jesus?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight a teaching of Jesus.....allow Him to challenge you and change your thinking
- Recognise you are a disciple of Jesus in every part of your life – are there areas of your life you have wandered away from your Good Shepherd?
- Respond positively to opportunities to be **inconvenienced, interrupted** and to **take courage** this week
- Where do you have a part to play in “making disciples”?
- Take this opportunity before coming to the communion table to re-surrender your life to Jesus