

The Six Marks of a Disciple / Clay Miller

A disciple of Jesus Christ is a person who follows Jesus...in His Steps.

1 Peter 2:21 (NASB) *“For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps...”*

A book titled **“In His Steps,”** based on this verse, was written in by Charles M. Sheldon and published in 1896. **In His Steps** is a best-selling religious fiction novel has sold more than 50 million copies and ranks as one of the best-selling books of all time. The full title of the book is **In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?** Charles Monroe Sheldon (February 26, 1857, Wellsville, New York – February 24, 1946, Topeka, Kansas) was an American Congregationalist minister. In his novel, Sheldon introduced the principle of "What Would Jesus Do?" which articulated an approach to Christian theology that became popular at the turn of the 20th century and had a revival almost one hundred years later. The stretch of US-24 on the north side of Topeka, Kansas between US-75 and K-4 is named the "Charles Sheldon Traffic-way" in his honor.

But what is a Disciple of Jesus? How would we recognize one if we saw one on this base? Is everyone who uses the name of Jesus a disciple of Jesus? Are there even any disciples today - or were there just 12 disciples 2,000 years ago? What are the marks of a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Jesus said that not everyone who uses His name was His disciple.

Luke 6:46 (NASB) *“Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?”*

Matthew 7:22-23 (NASB) *“Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'. And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'”*

So then what constitutes a “disciple” of Jesus Christ? Jesus gives us the answers in the Bible – His Word - let’s see what He said were the 6 marks of His disciples.

Jesus said a DISCIPLE:

1. CONTINUES IN THE WORD

John 8:31 (NASB) *“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine...””*

2. LOVES OTHER DISCIPLES

John 13:34-35 (NASB) *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

3. BEARS MUCH FRUIT

John 15:8 (NASB) *"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples."*

4. LOVES JESUS MORE THAN THEIR STUFF

Matthew 19:21 (NASB) *"Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.""*

5. LOVES JESUS MORE THAN OTHER PEOPLE

Luke 14:26 (NASB) *"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."*

6. LOVES JESUS MORE THAN HIMSELF

Luke 9:23 (NASB) *"And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.""*

We are called to first *become* a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ then we are called to go out and *make* disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. We make disciples when we win people to Christ and then when we walk with them and teach them how to also walk with Jesus, by modeling the Christian life to them.

Matthew 4:19 (NASB) *"And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.""*

Let me read that verse again and think about what OUR responsibility is...and what Jesus retains as HIS responsibility.

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Finally, Jesus tells us what the END GOAL of being His disciple is:

Luke 6:40 (NKJV) *"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."*

As we close – think about what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. I challenge us each to look at our own lives and evaluate the 6 Marks of being a Disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. Am I CONTINUING IN THE WORD?
2. Do I LOVE OTHER DISCIPLES?
3. Am I BEARING MUCH FRUIT?
4. Do I LOVE JESUS MORE THAN MY STUFF?
5. Do I LOVE JESUS MORE THAN OTHER PEOPLE?
6. Do I LOVE JESUS MORE THAN MYSELF?

The Six Marks of a Disciple - 8/11/19

A disciple of Jesus Christ is a person who follows Jesus _____
_____. (1 Peter 2:21)

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Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:22-23

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