

Peter & Discipleship

A 16 lesson study on the subject of discipleship
as viewed from the pen and life of the apostle Peter.
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“What Is A Disciple?” (Lesson #1)

Mark 10:17-22, 29-30; Luke 14:25-35; Matt 16:21-26

Foreword: Discipleship is a learned and experienced matter (Luke 6:40; John 8:31; John 6:66). In this study we will use the apostle Peter and the Lord's personal acquaintance with him, as well as his epistles as the basis of our study.

1. Define disciple (Matt. 28:18-20). John had his disciples (Matt. 9:14); the Pharisees had theirs (Matt. 22:16); Moses had his (John 9:28). This study concentrates on being a disciple of our Lord.
2. Can a person successfully be a “secret” disciple of Jesus? (John 19:38)
3. In our texts name 3 basic requirements of being a disciple. Discuss each.
4. Show from the passages that Jesus does not force one to be his disciple. Why is understanding this so important? (John 5:39,40)
5. Why was Peter rebuked? Are rebukes conducive to proper discipleship?
6. Can people become disciples of preachers, papers, colleges, etc.? What is wrong with this?
7. You love someone dearly and would have him or her to be a disciple of the Lord. What is the first thing you would do to encourage this person?

“The Cost of Discipleship” (Lesson #2)

Mark 10:17-22, 23-31; Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-33

1. Read II Sam 24:18-25 – Serving God and being a disciple of Jesus must cost us something. What did being a disciple of Jehovah cost David?
2. Name the good qualities of the rich young ruler.
3. What requirements did he lack in order to inherit eternal life?
4. What was his answer and why?
5. What does it mean to “trust” in riches?
6. What did Peter learn about the cost of discipleship (Mk 10:28-31)?
7. Can a person have riches and be a disciple of Christ?
8. Discuss what is entailed in counting the cost of discipleship.
9. Do you believe it is more difficult to be a disciple of Christ today than it was in Jesus’ day?
10. What is the cost for us to be disciples of Jesus?

“Peter Accepts the Call of Discipleship” (Lesson #3)

Luke 5:1-11; Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 4:18

1. Relate the miracle in Luke’s account that convinced Peter to become a follower of Jesus.
2. Why did Jesus perform miracles (cf. John 20:29-31)?
3. Peter would become “a fisher of men” (“catch men”). Name two ways Peter would accomplish this (cf. Mark 16:16; 1 Pet 5:1-4).
4. How do Christians carry out their role in **saving souls**?
 - a. Teaching/preaching ⇒ Acts 8:1, 4; 2 Tim 2:2-3
 - b. Example ⇒ Eph 4:1-3; 5:1-2; Phil 3:17-19
 - c. Restoring the erring ⇒ Gal 2:14; 6:1; 2 Tim 2:24-26; James 5:19-20
 - d. Corrective discipline ⇒ 1 Cor 5:4-7, 11, 13; 2 Thess 3:13-15
 - e. Joyful enthusiasm ⇒ Matt 13:44; Acts 8:5-8, 39; Rom 5:1-2; Phil 4:4
 - f. Confidence in gospel ⇒ Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 2:1-5; 2 Tim 1:8-12
 - g. Loving the lost ⇒ John 3:16; Rom 5:8; Titus 3:4
 - h. Supporting evangelists ⇒ Phil 4:15; 2 Cor 11:8
 - i. Prayer ⇒ Rom 10:1; 2 Thess 3:1-2; 1 Thess 5:16-18
 - j. Have we missed anything?
5. What will discourage the “catching of men?” Furnish scriptural support for answers. Example: Internal conflicts as found in James 4:1-10.

“Jesus at Peter’s House” (Lesson #4)

Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

1. Peter's mother-in-law was healed in what city, on what day, and what was the nature of her illness (Luke 4:31-39)?
2. We see that Peter had a wife. Did he leave her when he became a disciple and began preaching (I Cor 9:5)? Why this question?
3. What had Jesus previously done on this day?
4. What did he do that evening (Luke 4:40-41)?
5. How would the event encourage Peter to become a better disciple of Jesus?
6. Explain the prophecy of Isaiah 53:4 and how does it relate to our lesson?
7. Peter is presented as a hospitable disciple. What is hospitality? Rom 12:13; Heb 13:1-2; 1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Pet 4:9
8. What point can be made about Peter's mother-in-law and hospitality?
9. Give an example of the above. (3 Jn 5-8)
10. Why is "showing hospitality" so important to being a disciple of Christ?

“Peter Walking on Water” (Lesson #5)

Matthew 14:22-33; John 6:16-21

1. What event had just taken place (Matt 14:15-21)?
 - a. Why did Jesus constrain the disciples to enter the ship (John 6:15)?

2. Jesus walked on the sea (Matt 14:26). How did this affect the disciples?
 - a. What was Peter's reaction (vs. 28)?

 - b. Was this an act of faith on his part?

3. Peter learned that a disciple of Jesus must depend wholly upon Him (Matt 14:27, 31). What is the lesson for us (1 Pet 5:4-7, 10)?

4. What caused Peter's failure (vs. 30-31)?
 - a. What digressive steps were in his failure? What is the lesson for us?

5. We see that doubt, fear, anxiety are characteristics of “little” faith. What might contribute to “little” faith in our lives?

6. Why would it be difficult for many to believe that anyone ever actually walked on water?

“The Heart Removed From God” (Lesson #6)

Matthew 15:1-20

1. What accusations did the Pharisees make against the disciples of Jesus (15:2)? How did Jesus answer (15:3)?
2. What Pharisaic tradition did Jesus use to expose their hypocrisy (15:4-6)?
3. How does Isaiah 29:13 address the traditions of the Pharisees?
4. What parable did Jesus relate, and what was its effect on the Pharisees (15:11-12)?
5. What was the explanation of the parable (15:17-18)?
6. Relate the importance of a “pure heart” to our study (15:18-20; cf. Psa 24:3-5; Matt 5:8).
7. What do you believe Peter learned from this encounter with the Lord (15:15)?
8. As disciples, do we have a duty in exposing human doctrine (15:13-14)?
9. If we as disciples of Jesus teach as He taught, what should we expect on occasion?

“You Are The Christ, The Son Of The Living God” (Lesson #7)

Matthew 16:13-20

1. Where were Jesus and the disciples?
2. What question did Jesus ask of them and what was their reply?
3. What is the next question of Jesus and how did Peter reply?
4. How had the Father revealed to Peter his answer (vs. 17)?
5. What was the “rock” upon which the church of the Lord would be built (1 Cor 3:11)?
6. Identify “gates of hell” (Hades) of verse 18.
7. What promise was made to Peter (vs. 19)?
8. Explain “binding and loosing in heaven; binding and loosing on earth” (vs. 19; Matt 18:18).
9. Why didn't Jesus want it spread that he was the Christ (vs. 20)?
10. Is there a difference between “foundation” (Eph 2:20) and “foundation” (1 Cor 3:11)?
11. How do we “bind and loose” today, what are the limits?
12. What do we “bind and loose today”? (Give examples).

“Peter, the Keys and Discipleship” (Lesson #8)

Foreword: Please read all the following references of Peter's life. Pick one item in each account that impresses you about Peter's work as an apostle & disciple.

1. Acts 1:15-26

2. Acts 2:14-38

3. Acts 3

4. Acts 4:5-22

5. Acts 5:8-16

6. Acts 8:14-24

7. Acts 10:17-48

8. Acts 11:1-18

9. Acts 12:1-19

“Peter Follows Afar Off” (Lesson #9)

**Matthew 26:57-58, 69-75; Mark 14:27-31, 54, 66-72;
Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27**

1. After the institution of the Lord’s Supper, what assertion of discipleship did Peter make to Jesus (Matt 26:31-33, 35)?
2. What prophecy did Jesus make of Peter (Matt 26:34; Lk 22:31-34)?
3. Shortly after, what overt act of “discipleship” did Peter show (Matt 26:51; Jn 18:8-11)?
4. How did Jesus rebuke him (Matt 26:51-54)?
5. “Peter followed afar off” (Matt 26:58); this was the first step in Peter’s defection. He wanted to “see the end.” Peter shows that a disciple cannot be active in foolish commitment or in being a mere observer. Discuss.
6. Peter’s following “afar off” put him into the wrong crowd and into a compromising position. Give the 3 steps in his digression (Matt 26:69-75).
7. What is the ultimate end of sin (Matt 26:75)?
8. What important lessons of discipleship do we learn from Peter’s life?
9. Jesus prayed for Peter (Lk 22:31). Did Peter’s faith fail? Did Peter “turn again” and did he establish his brethren? How would we apply this personally?

"Disciples and Taxes" (lesson #10)

Matthew 22:15-22 (Matthew 17:22-27)

1. The texts above relate to paying what kind of taxes?
2. Peter learned that paying taxes to Caesar (or civil rulers) was lawful, but what if the ruler is corrupt and murderous?
3. Peter's discipleship made him make a choice in regards to civil rulers and their laws. What was it? (Acts 4:13-22) What lesson do we learn from this?
4. What practices did Roman law provide for that are approved of God?

Acts 24, 26 –

Acts 24:19 –

Acts 25:10-11 –
5. According to Romans 13...
 - a. The basic role of civil government is...
 - b. The basic responsibility of the Lord's disciple is...
6. 1 Cor 6:1-7 is cited as the rule that stipulates the Christian cannot go to law with another Christian under any circumstance. Discuss this.
7. Does Matt 5:33-37 prohibit judicial oaths? Prove your answer.
8. Should Christians serve on jury duty where the death penalty is being sought?
9. What should the Christian pray for in regards to rulers (1 Tim 2:1-2)?
10. Does the Matthew 17 text justify financially supporting error in a congregation by contributing to the treasury?

“Disciples, Sin and the Brother” (Lesson #11)

Matt 18:15-17, 21-22; Luke 17:3-4

1. Peter questioned the Lord concerning forgiving a brother. What did he ask and what was the Lord's reply (Matt 18:21-22)?

2. Relate the parable that Jesus taught to reinforce His law on forgiveness (Matt 18:23-35).

3. If your brother sins against you (or sins in general) what should you do (Matt 18:15-17)?

4. In Matt 18:15-17 is there a difference between individual and congregational action? Explain.

5. Discuss the following passages relating to discipleship, sin and a brother.
 - a. Galatians 6:1-2 –

 - b. 1 Corinthians 8:13 –

 - c. James 5:19-20 –

 - d. Matthew 18:6 –

 - e. Matthew 18:12-14 –

“Disciples Will Suffer Persecution” (Lesson #12)

1 Peter 4:12-19

1. Why were Christians able to rejoice in spite of manifold trials (1 Pet 1:3-9; 4:13-14)?
2. Peter states that Christ suffered and we “should follow in his steps” (1 Pet 2:21). Name 5 things (2:22-24) that we must do in order to follow His example.
3. “For it is better, if the will of God should so will, that ye suffer for _____ than for _____.” (1 Pet 3:17)
4. Name three characteristics of Christ's sufferings (1 Pet 3:18).
5. What mind must the disciple possess (1 Pet 4:1-6)?
6. Why will the world speak evil of a disciple (1 Pet 4:1-6)?
7. From the text discuss the following:
 - a. A _____ trial was to come upon Christians.
 - b. We should not suffer as a _____ in other people's matters.
 - c. We glorify God in wearing the name, _____.
 - d. When written, _____ would begin with the house of God.
 - e. The ungodly and sinner are presented as those who obey not the _____ of God.
8. In what ways do Christians suffer “fiery trials” today?
9. Name two other passages where the name “Christian” is found and relate the context....
10. When we seek to restore a fallen brother, are we meddling?
11. What does it mean that the righteous one is “scarcely saved”?

“Disciples Will Lead Pure Lives” (Lesson #13)

1 Peter 1:13-25

1. Pure lives must come of purified souls (vs. 22). Peter makes mention of three things as to how this is accomplished:
 - a. 1:18-19 – redeemed by _____.
 - b. 1:22 – purified in _____.
 - c. 1:23 – begotten again through _____.

2. Discuss girding up loins of your mind (1:13).

3. God's children are referred to as children of _____ and they are not to be _____ (1:14).

4. Name some former lusts of these Christians (1 Pet 4:16); members of the house of God (4:17), those who had obeyed the gospel (4:17), people of God (2:10). Find answers in 1 Pet 2:1; 4:3-4.

5. Name some characteristics of the "holy manner of life." (1 Pet 2:2, 9, 12, 21-21; 3:8-12; 4:8-11).

6. Are Christians sinners? Discuss in light of – 1 Pet 4:17-18; 1 John 1:10; 3:4-9)

“Disciples Are Prepared For Christ's Coming” (Lesson #14)

2 Peter 3

1. What is the promise of verse 9?
 - a. What statements of fact do we have that the Lord will come?
 - b. Name others: (Acts 1:11; 1 Cor 11:26; 1 Thess 4:16)

2. How do we know that Jesus will not return to earth? (1 Thess 4:17; John 17:4; 2 Pet 3:7ff)
 - a. What human theory is based on the false teaching that He will return to earth?

3. Describe the attitude and the behavior of those who mock the Second Coming (vss. 3-5).

4. Did the flood of Noah's time cover the entire world or just a small section (v. 6)?
 - a. Why is this introduced into the discussion of the Second Coming of Christ (cf. v. 7)?

5. Discuss briefly the following:
 - a. “One day is with the Lord as a 1000 years” (v. 8).
 - b. “The longsuffering of God” (vss. 9, 15).
 - c. “Looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God” (v. 12)
 - d. “Perish or repent” (v. 9)

6. What does Peter tell disciples of the Lord about preparation (vss. 11-14)?

“Disciples Are Fruit bearing People” (Lesson #15)

2 Peter 1: 1-11

1. God does not want his children to be _____
_____ (vs. 8).
Jesus said that we cannot be disciples unless we _____ (John 15:8).
 - a. How do we bear much fruit according to Jesus (John 15:5)?
 - b. Jesus and the disciples are joined together to do what (Rom 7:4)?
2. What verse in our text plainly teaches the all sufficiency of divine revelation?
3. Before we can partake of divine nature we must escape what (vss. 3-4)?
4. The disciple must add to his life certain qualities; define each (vss. 5-8):
 - a. Faith –
 - b. Virtue –
 - c. Knowledge –
 - d. Self control –
 - e. Perseverance –
 - f. Godliness –
 - g. Brotherly kindness –
 - h. Love –
5. What is the promise to those who “abound” in these virtues (1:8)?
6. Verse 9 speaks of “spiritual myopia.” Explain.
7. In our text the word “diligence” is used twice. How is it used?

“Disciples, Beware of False Teachers” (Lesson #16)

2 Peter 2

1. What is the warning of verse 1?
 - a. What was the Lord's warning in this same regard (Matt 7:15-20)?
 - b. John also made warning in 2 John 9-11 (discuss).
 - c. What was Paul's response to false teachers (Ga1 2:5; Acts 13:4-12)?
2. Identify the doctrines and actions of a false teacher (vss.1-3).
 - a. Destructive heresies (vs. 1) –
 - b. Denying the Lord (vs. 1) –
 - c. Destructive ways (vs. 2) –
 - d. Deceptive words (vs. 3) –
 - 1) What motivates these teachers (vs.3)?
 - 2) What is their reward?
3. What three examples of God's wrath prove the certainty of their reward?
4. Can we live righteously surrounded by ungodliness and wickedness (vss. 7-9; Jude 7)?
5. What are the terms used in condemning the mockers/false teachers (vss. 10-19)?
6. Describe the sorrowful state of those who know the way of righteousness yet return to the defilements of the world (vss. 21-22).