



DEFINITION of a DISCIPLE

Christ's Commission

(Matthew 28:18-20)

- (v. 18) With **all authority** Christ commands His Church to . . .
- (v. 19) The Church is to make **disciples before baptizing them!**
- (v. 20) The Church is to **teach** disciples to **do all** that Christ has commanded.

Disciple: Definition

- "His disciples **followed Him** . . ." Matthew 8:23; Mark 4:35-36
 - "disciple" μαθητής (mathetes) - "student"; "pupil"; "follower"
 - Understanding this word in the New Testament:
 - ❶ One had to get a rabbi's permission to become one of his disciples.
 - ❷ If the rabbi agreed, the disciple-to-be agreed to **totally submit** to the rabbi's authority to include the rabbi's interpretation of the Scripture. It was to **totally surrender your life** to the rabbi's interpretation of God's Word.
 - ❸ Groups of disciples (Yeshivas) intensely dialogued over an aspect of life and Scripture's claim on it. They "wrestled" with their rabbi's interpretation of Scripture.
 - ❹ The disciples had to memorize most, if not all, of Hebrew Scriptures in preparation of the Bar Mitzvahs at the age of 13. Disciples NOW wanted to LIVE those Scriptures.

- ⑤ Lively debate over different rabbinic interpretation of text pertaining to life issues was a normal part of being a disciple. These debates could take weeks! **BUT** when the rabbi declared his authoritative interpretation all further debate ceased! HIS, not other rabbi's interpretations was **binding** on His disciples.
- ⑥ Discipleship was a DAILY interaction with the rabbi. The rabbi was always asking questions about every aspect of the disciple's life.
- ⑦ **The disciple's goal was to become just like his rabbi in ALL aspects of life.** The disciple would imitate his rabbi. (1 Corinthians 11:1; John 13:1-15; 1 Peter 2:21; Ephesians 5:1-2; **1 John 2:6**)
- Christ commands His followers to a **wholehearted** and **uncompromising** following. (Luke 9:23; John 10:27-28; Luke 9:57-62; 14:26; John 21:22)
- Christ expects His followers to follow Him on His terms. Followers are not to set the terms of their following.
 - Luke 14:26, 28, 33
- MANY followers fell away **AND** will fall away! (John 6:66; Luke 9:57-62; Matthew 13:20-22; 7:21-23; 24:4-5; 11, 24)
- (John 8:31) **"IF you continue (abide) in MY WORD, then you are MY disciples."**