Discipleship Essentials: What it Means to Follow Jesus
Sunday, August 25, 2019 • Tim McCoy, Lead Pastor

A Chapter a Day
- Sunday, August 25 • Mark 15
- Monday, August 26 • Mark 16
- Tuesday, August 27 • Hebrews 1
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If you would like to receive a short, daily email to help you better understand and apply the chapter we are reading together each day, please sign up by texting the word Chapter to 22828.

“Our mission is to ____________________________ of Jesus Christ for the glory of God.”

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

(Matthew 28:19-20a, ESV)

disciple ➔ noun, Greek NT, mathetes
 ➔ verb, Greek NT, manthano – to learn, to be instructed, to be taught

To be a “disciple” is . . . to be a ____________________________
 . . . to be a ____________________________

“to be a follower or a disciple of someone, in the sense of adhering to the teachings or instructions of a leader and in promoting the cause of such a leader” (Greek-English Lexicon)
The Purpose of the Gospel of Mark

“The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark is *to present and defend Jesus’ universal call to discipleship*. Mark returns often to this theme, and as the narrative unfolds he categorizes his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. The outline demonstrates that Mark’s central effort in presenting and supporting this call is *to narrate the identity and teaching of Jesus*. This fact implies that discipleship for Mark is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple’s life, and this fellowship includes trusting him, confessing him, taking note of his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship to him.

Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.”

*(ESV Study Bible, Introduction to Mark, p. 189)*

**Mark 1:14-15**

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (ESV)

To be a disciple of Jesus . . .

1. **I must ________________________** - have a change of mind that leads to a change of direction and change in my life; turn away from sin in contrition and sorrow

2. **I must ________________________** - trust in Jesus, to have confidence in him, to rely on him, to depend on him, to acknowledge and submit to his authority as Leader and Lord
Mark 1:16-20

16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. (ESV)

To be a disciple of Jesus . . .

3. I will say, “Yes!” to his __________________________.

4. I will become part of the __________________________
   of making more disciples.

Mark 2:13-17

13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (ESV)

5. Involves more than merely being part of the
   ____________________________.

6. I have to be willing to admit my ___________________
   --my brokenness, my sinfulness, my waywardness.
Mark 8:27-38

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” 28 And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” 29 And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” 30 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” (ESV)

To be a disciple of Jesus means . . .

7. I am not __________________________ to be identified with Jesus and his gospel – no matter the cost.

A Prayer to begin the Journey of Discipleship

Dear God,

I need you. My life is broken. I am a sinner. Please forgive me.

By faith, I receive Jesus right now as my Lord and Savior. I commit now to trust him, follow him, and obey him.

As I follow Jesus, please fill me with your Spirit, guide me, teach me, and help me live for your glory.

In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.