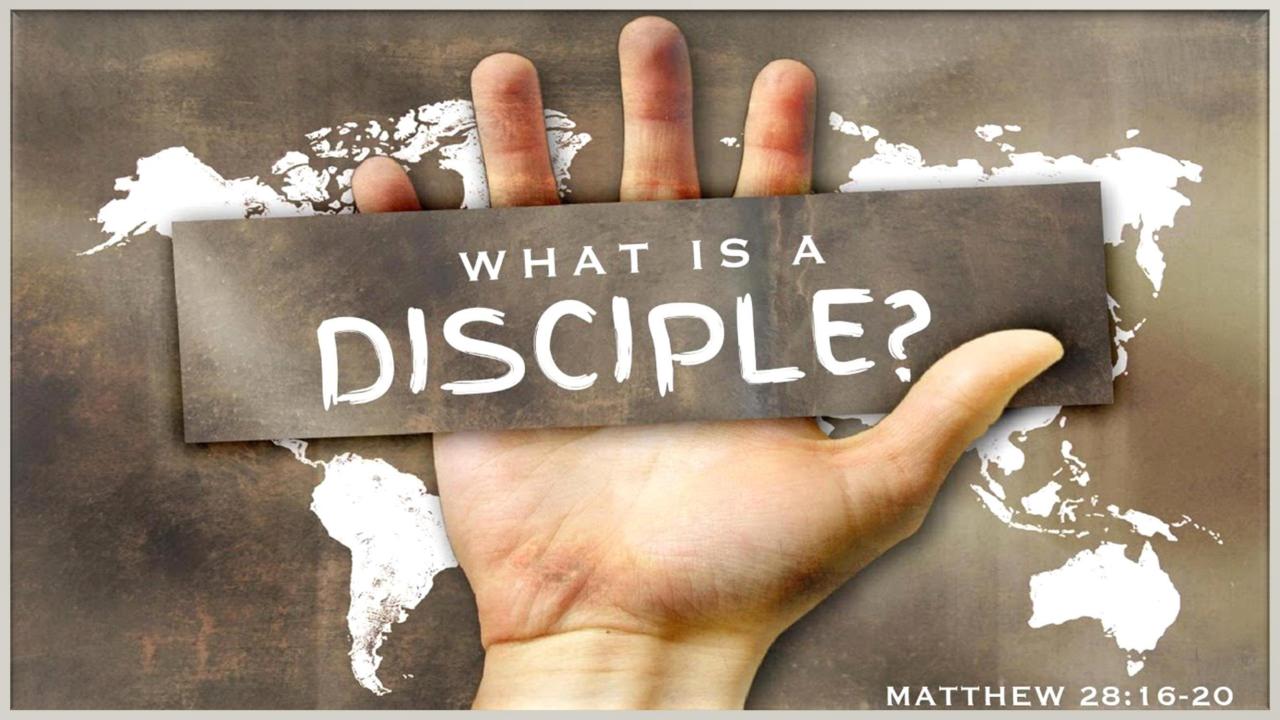




Matthew 28 (NIV)

19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



- A Christian disciple is a person who
 - Follows Jesus
 - Accepts the Good News of salvation through Him
 - Spreads the Good New
 - Grows in their relationship with their Lord Jesus
 - Is equipped by the indwelling Holy Spirit to overcome the pressures & trials of this present life
 - Becomes more & more like Jesus

- Christian discipleship requires believers to look at the Word of God & respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting to examine & compare their,
 - Thoughts
 - Words
 - Actions

- As disciples, this requires that we be in the Word daily
 - Studying it
 - Praying over it
 - Obeying it
- As we live in God's Word, we become equipped to give testimony as to the reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15) & to disciple others to walk in His way

- According to Scripture, being a Christian disciple involves personal growth characterized by the following:
 - Putting Jesus first in all things (Mark 8:34–38)
 - Our focus should be on our Lord & how to please
 Him in every area of our lives
 - We must put off self-centeredness & put on Christcenteredness

- Following Jesus' teachings (John 8:31–32)
 - We must be obedient children & doers of the Word (James 1:22)
 - Obedience is the supreme test of faith in God (1 Samuel 28:18)
 - Jesus is the perfect example of obedience as He lived a life on earth of complete obedience to His Father even to the point of death (Philippians 2:6–8)

- Bearing fruit (John 15:5–8)
 - Christian disciples should live fruitful lives, displaying the fruit of the Spirit, good works & "the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (Hebrews 12:11)
 - God's goal is that we produce "much fruit", as Christ uses us to bring about blessed change in a broken & fallen world

- Loving other disciples (John 13:34–35)
 - Love of other believers is evidence of our being a member of God's family (1 John 3:10)
 - Love is described in 1 Corinthians 13:1–13
 - Love is not an emotion; it is decision

- Making disciples of others (Matthew 28:18–20)
 - This includes evangelism sharing the gospel & urging people to repent & believe in Christ
 - Christians should be actively engaged in training believers who will in turn train others
 - Jesus trained His disciples who spent the rest of their lives as disciple-makers, training others to also become disciple-makers

- A Christian disciple is one who
 - Puts Jesus first
 - Obeys the Lord
 - Produces good fruit
 - Loves others
 - Makes more disciples
- Such is one who is sure to make an impact in this fallen world for the glory of God

Matthew 5 (NIV)

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."

YOU ARE THE SALID OF THE EARTH.



NATTHEW 5:1

- Salt had two purposes in the first century
 - Preserving food
 - Enhancing flavor
- Jesus was calling His disciples to be "preservatives" in the world by slowing down the advancement of moral & spiritual decay
- 3 All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. (Psalm 14:3 NIV)

- Disciples are to preserve truth & goodness in a fallen world
- Jesus wants His disciples to "enhance" the flavor of life by making God's work stand out from the normal way of doing things
 - 35 "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."

 (Luke 6:35 NIV)

- As disciples we behave in ways that
 - Reflect God's nature
 - Accentuate the difference that Jesus makes in our lives
- Jesus was pointing the value & usefulness of His disciples
- In Jesus' day, salt was a valuable commodity
- The word salary comes from an ancient word meaning "salt-money"

- Jesus was telling His disciples how important their ministry would be
- The value of salt lies in its effect on its surroundings
- Salt does make an impact unless if it loses its saltiness

- True disciples of Jesus cannot lose their saltiness
- They are new creations & completely changed
- Someone who is an imposter cannot become salty
- Imposters are to be "thrown out and trampled underfoot" because they have no effectiveness

- Jesus is telling us that we are valuable in our role as His disciples
- God uses us to impact the people around us by
 - Slowing down the moral decay
 - Enhancing the spiritual "flavor" of the world
- As Jesus' disciples we were
 - Created to have a positive impact on the world
 - Called to be different & to live righteous lives

Matthew 5 (NIV)

14 "You are the <u>light</u> of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your <u>light</u> shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



- The good works of Christ's followers are to shine for all to see
- The presence of light in darkness is something that is unmistakable
- The presence of Christians in the world must be like a light in the darkness

- Jesus' disciples are to
 - Bring the truth of God's Word brings to the darkened hearts of sinful man (John 1:1-10)
 - Do good deeds that are evident for all to see
- Our deeds will be evident if they are performed in accordance with the other principles that Jesus mentions in this passage, such as the Beatitudes

- Christians do not stand out for their own sake, but so that those who looked on might "glorify your Father who is in heaven"
- The role of the Christian in the world may be hindered or prevented through any choice to compromise or settle for the more convenient or comfortable
- As disciples of Jesus, we are called to seek that which is truly best & pleasing to the Lord

- It is when we depart from the Spirit-led lifestyle of genuine discipleship that the distinctions between ourselves & the rest of the world become blurred & our testimony is hindered
- Only by remaining focused on Jesus & being obedient to Him can we expect to remain a light in the world

Main Idea

As Jesus's disciples we are called to model our life after His becoming salt and light to the world by loving our Father and our neighbor.

Question?

Are you a true disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ?



