

Discipleship

([Isa 42:1-7](#), [1 Pet 4:12-19](#), [Luke 14:25-33](#))

Do you know that the name "**Christian**" has not come from God. It has come from the nickname given to the disciples of Jesus Christ by the Roman soldiers. The Greek word is "Christianos". It means "little Christ". The **disciples** in Antioch were called Christians ([Acts 11:26](#)). Therefore a Christian is not one that belongs to a denomination. The disciples of Jesus are Christians. To day God is not asking us to which denomination we belong .He is asking us whether we are His disciples or not. Another important thing is when we say disciple the questions that come are who you're Guru is or whose disciples are you? The Greek word which was translated as **Christian** has come in the New Testament three times .These three verses tell us the three important characteristics of a **Christian**. In this order let us remember.

1. [Acts 26:28](#)-These are the words, King Agrippa said to Paul. "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?" Therefore this verse makes it clear that nobody can be a born Christian. **A Christian is a converted person.**
2. [Acts 11:26](#)- The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch. This verse tells us that **a Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ.**
3. [I Pet 4:16](#)- "... if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name." if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. This verse reminds us that **a Christian is one who glorifies God at all times.**

From the above, Christians are therefore those who are made new creation in Christ Jesus, who follow Jesus daily as His disciples and glorify God all the time even in severe persecution and are being transformed into His like ness by finding and doing God's will in His word. This is the central message of today's scripture lessons. Today's Old Testament lesson teaches us the purpose of Jesus in making us His disciples and who our Guru Jesus is. Today's gospel lesson teaches us what we have to do in this world as the **Disciples** of Christ. Today's epistle lesson teaches us that as disciples we should not be ashamed of being called as Christians or disciples of Christ but glorify God for the grace of being called His disciples, and glorify God whatever suffering may come to us

**The Old Testament Lesson: [Isaiah 42:1-7](#)
All the three in the Holy trinity are Divine Gurus**

I always feel that God the Father even though is our Creator, savior and sustainer He likes more to be our teacher. God the Father is a teacher (Is [28:26-29](#)). God the Son is a teacher ([Mat 11:28](#), [29](#). God the Holy Spirit is also our teacher ([John 16:13](#)). In the message of January 10 we came across the four portions in Isaiah which were called "Servant Songs". In that message we looked at the 2nd song. That song teaches us that God has appointed His servant as savior who can save the people unto the ends of the world. Today's song shows us His plan for accomplishing the mission of salvation.

The Guru whom we are following, even though He is the Son of the sovereign God, made himself nothing, taking the very nature^[b] of a servant (Phi [2:7](#)). Even though He is a King of Kings and Lord of Lords He has opted to be a servant King and not a king who wields power and authority like the kings in the world .He even washed the feet of His disciples and dried them with a towel like a servant (John 13).

God had already prepared the plan of the mission that His son had to fulfill as His servant. He also promised the Spirit that is required for it. On the day of His Baptism this promise was fulfilled. That day Jesus had consecrated Himself for the work the Father had given to Him. Simeon holding the eight day old baby Jesus in His hand and looking at Him said that Jesus was the God's salvation, which He had prepared in the sight of all people, and a light for revelation of God to the Gentiles. Those words which Simeon said are from this portion only. I just want to mention one point (for lack of space and time) that God wants us to learn is that the three fold work of God's plan of salvation as 1) Eradication of Spiritual blindness 2) Driving the darkness of Sin in the world 3) Setting free all those who were bound by Satan.

The strategy of Jesus in fulfilling this mission is making disciples and sending them into the world. In the latter part of His life on earth Jesus spent most of His time with His disciples who responded to His call and followed. During that time He taught them what they had to do after He left the world. He taught them many .However today's gospel lesson teaches us what Jesus has taught His disciples as regarding how they have to live in this world and do the work He has assigned to them.

**The Gospel lesson: [Luke 14:25-33](#)
There is no discipleship with out the Cross**

On the first Sunday of this month we saw what we had to do as those who proclaim the truth of God. That day we started memorizing some

spiritual tabled as we memorized mathematical tables as children. We started with "life table". To day we will memorize two more tables.

Christian	Disciple of Christ
Acts 26:28 -A Christian	John 8:31 -Those abide in the word of Christ
Acts 11:26 -A Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ.	Luke 9:23,14:27 -Those who follow Jesus daily carrying the cross
Acts 26:28 -A Christian is one who glorified God	John 13:34, 35 -Those who grow in agape love.
	John 15:8 -Those who bear fruit
	Luke 6:40 -Those are being transformed into Christ likeness

May I remind you yet another time that the disciples of Jesus Christ are the students of the Jesus' Open University of life? Getting WDGFS (Well Done Good Faithful Servant) is not that easy as some get useless Doctorates in this world to satisfy their ego by giving money.

True discipleship consists of

1. listening to God to learn and be blessed and abide in His word ([John 8:31](#)) watching daily at His gates([Pro 8:34](#)),
2. crucifying our self , flesh with all its passions and lusts and our world full of pride of life ([Gal 2:20,5:24, 6:14](#)) to be transformed in to His like ness (this is what it means to carry the cross daily)
3. glorifying God by bearing fruit of the spirit love ([John 13:34,35](#))
4. winning souls([John 15:8](#))
5. being transformed into His like ness ([Luke 6:40](#))

When we pass in all the 5 papers (Paper one -**The word**, Paper 2-**The cross**, Paper 3-**The Love**, Paper 4-**The fruit**, Paper 5-**Christ likeness**) then we get the degree **WDGFS- Well Done Good Faithful Servant**. Either you enroll your self in the Jesus open university of life or be ready to be stamped **you lazy slothful servant and** be thrown into hell. Only, two options to choose, no middle ground.

It is not just enough to be called as Christians but the most difficult lesson to learn which is to be ready to die as his witnesses and disciples is also part our syllabus for WDGFS . This is today's Epistle lesson.

The Epistle lesson: [1 Pet 4:13-19](#)

There is no part taking in the Glory of Christ with out part taking in His suffering

It is time for judgment to begin with the family of God. That means God will judge first his churches. If we don't care to obey His great commission to go and make disciples and do His work and lead the churches as we like, what Jesus said that He would do to the 5 churches of the seven Churches and had done as he said, the same he would do to us also (Rev 2nd and 3rd Chapters).Therefore let our churches plan to go into the world and make disciples.

These days many are preaching unbiblical Christianity without talking about discipleship but always talking about, healing and miracles ([Gal 1:1-6](#)). How many are teaching and preaching about true discipleship that consists of following Jesus daily carrying the cross to die to self ,sinful lusts and pride of life and be ready to lay down our lives for Christ ? How many are telling people the all important truth that we will go to heaven only after we face many trials and suffering? Can we call it a ministry if it is not carrying on the great commission? Therefore let us decide to follow Jesus to be made disciples that go into the world and make disciples. May our churches become great commission Churches.

Life Application:

- 1. Can we say that our church is a great commission Church when we ourselves are not Disciples of Christ?**

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This disciple is the one who testifies to these events and has recorded them here.

And we know that his account of these things is accurate. John 21:24 (NLT)