



## Being Jesus' Personal Representative

### Mark 6:1-13

August 18, 2019  
Pastor Trevor Cooper

Good morning church! I hope everyone considers join us in our Small Group Bible Study called The Journey on Sundays at 9:45 AM. There may be members in these groups who are at different levels of spiritual maturity. For new believers, this is a very exciting time. This first session will help set them on a path for spiritual growth. Some will also be in your group who have been Christians for a long time but have never been disciplined.

Discipleship is simply training and teaching others to learn from Jesus to live like Jesus. A Disciple is a pupil or learner who is growing in his relationship with Jesus Christ and learning how to follow him in every area of life. Following Jesus encompasses four elements: the first is BECOMING a disciple where we studied in Chapter one to follow Jesus completely. The second is KNOWING what a disciple should know. Thirdly, when we talked about the Unpardonable Sin in chapter three, we also addressed that God wants us to be part of His Kingdom work and to be usable for Him. Lastly, we will look today at being Jesus' representative in chapter six by doing God's work even without a leader to follow.

How do you know if you are a Disciple of Christ? We can ask four questions that reflect these elements of growth as a disciple. Again, the first question is to ask, '**Are You BECOMING?**' Part of becoming is to **Live your life DAILY as a follower of Jesus Christ.** Also, to **BECOME more like Him in every aspect of your life.** God is not looking for the hardest worker, but for the humblest learner. Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." In chapter 1, Jesus calls and commissions His disciples. Jesus identifies these young men and then he qualifies them by putting them to work. I know some of you in our church is eager to disciple other people. The first step in discipling a person is to identify them. Paul told Timothy in **2 Timothy 2:2** do not pick just anyone, but "entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also". The second step is putting them to work, meaning you start teaching them in a way so they can learn it to love it; and love it to live it. Second question to ask about growing is '**Are You KNOWING?**' We must **Learn and become FAMILIAR with the truth of God's Word. SATURATING your life with God's Word establishes a biblical worldview.** When Jesus ministered, the disciples watched and became familiar with the truth of the gospel. In Chapter three, we saw Jesus teaching on the Sabbath & addressing the Unpardonable Sin issue; which is rejecting the Spirit. We can ask if we are truly seeing what has for us and for His Kingdom. So, '**are you SEEING?**' **Gain understanding of HOW God specifically wants to**

**use YOU for His Kingdom and to actively ENGAGE in service.** The Twelve were appointed and sent to preach and cast out demons. Jesus ministered with them and around them as He taught them about the Kingdom of God. Lastly, the fourth question asked about our spiritual growth as a disciple is **'What are You DOING?'** Are we actually proving our identity as a Christian? Do others want to know Jesus because you and me? The focus of what a disciple does is to **MAKE disciples who will continue to MULTIPLY disciples and SEEK worldwide impact.** Let us read the text today to shed more light on what we are to do as a disciple of Christ.

*He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup>And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.<sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household."<sup>5</sup>And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup>And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup>And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. <sup>11</sup>And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."<sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup>And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. **Mark 6:1-13***

In verses one through three, we see all of Jesus' teaching on the Sabbath. You know, even though Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus observes weekly Sabbath worship. While he is there, he decides to teach in the Synagogues with His disciples watching and the community questioning? To be a manual laborer is not derogatory as such, for all rabbis were expected to have a trade. Paul was a tent maker; but they are stating Jesus, being a common worker is without religious or academic credentials. In verse four, not only is Jesus rejected by the people of the town and the wider circle of relatives there,

but also by His own family. Therefore, He could not do any mighty work there – not to suggest His power was somehow diminished by their unbelief. But because people didn't believe there was no one coming to him for healing or miracles like before. John MacArthur states, "Miracles belonged among those who were ready to believe."

Here are some practical ways to disciple and be disciplined: the first sub point in verse seven is the fact that **Jesus RECOGNIZES each Disciple as His Personal REPRESENTATIVES**. They were already appointed to be with Jesus. Now they are partnering with Jesus in the ministry. At some point in your process of discipling, partnership ought to form between the ones giving and receiving discipleship. Which leads us to the next sub point is **Jesus ASSIGNS each Disciple a Partner for HELP and ENCOURAGEMENT**. This biblical principle that any testimony given should be established by at least two witnesses was also applied in the missionary activity of the early church in the ministries of Peter and John, Paul and Barnabas and Paul and Silas. This kind of evangelism and ministry was accomplished well by our Beyond Team from Gateway Seminary when we did the "Luke 10 Strategy" in South Asia. This strategy is not an evangelism model for all people and situations. However, it does fit the cultural norm for South Asian peoples.

Another way to disciple like Jesus did and understanding how to be disciplined is noticing that **Jesus SUPPLIES each Disciple with their NEEDS and Removing DISTRACTIONS from Ministry**. Reading in verses eight through ten, Jesus knew that if the disciples carefully select where they stayed, they would be taken care of. The sole focus was to be on ministry and not to get distracted. When we have an opportunity to go evangelize, we get distracted by making it more of a shopping trip, taking a walk, or going out to eat more than sharing the gospel. Distractions disrupt discipleship. This evangelism strategy was intentional and purposeful. Getting rid of distractions was key while making sure the disciples were protected. The last display of discipleship in this passage is how **Jesus REASSURES each Disciple to Focus on Multiplying DISCIPLES, not Dreading DISCOURAGEMENT**. In verse eleven through thirteen, "Shake off the dust" was a gesture showing the people who had rejected Jesus and the gospel. Very strict Jews shook the foreign dust from their feet after travel in pagan territories. So, refusal of the gospel invites the same reaction to simply move on, seek the next person.

In South Asia, Erin Li was my partner this first time practicing this Evangelism strategy to start sharing the gospel on the street. We also shared the gospel and tried answering questions to an argumentative Hindu man but got nowhere. Later, we visited a house of two brothers and a friend who have heard the gospel before and were cousins of one of our other translators. We shared the Roman's road with them and mentioned that Jesus Christ must be the only God they would serve and trust. When we shared with them the gospel, Erin asked if they would be willing to trust in Jesus as their one and only God and they all said yes! We led them to the Lord that night and shared with them the importance of growing in their relationship with Christ through accountability and discipleship. I want to invite everyone to be disciplined by becoming, knowing, seeing and doing. But I also want to challenge every believer to recognize a person to disciple, assign them a partnership, supply their needs and encourage them to focus on the ministry.