**BMi SALTS COURSE**

**DISCIPLESHIP**

To the Greeks a disciple was a person who ‘bound himself to another in order to acquire that person’s practical and theoretical knowledge’.

In Rabbinical Judaism, disciple, describes a student who attached himself to a Rabbi, as would a servant, in order to understand the scriptures and Jewish traditions.

**To Christ**

Christians are called to be discipled to Christ—to leave everything and follow Him (Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9). Discipleship is not an optional extra—it is our obligation in love.

Paul illustrates what it means to be a disciple in Philippians 3:1-16. It is an inspiration for us to read Paul’s understanding of and commitment to Christ as Lord.

A disciple is a learner-follower of Jesus Christ.

**Discipline**

Discipline literally means *‘saving the mind from’* and conveys the idea of an admonition, or calling to soundness of mind, to self control (2 Timothy 1:7).

Discipline is training that produces self-control, orderliness, obedience and capacity for co-operation. It is the willing submissive response of the individual—in our case, to the Lordship of Christ over every aspect of our lives.

**Jesus: Model of Discipleship**

Jesus demonstrated the model of a disciple in His relationship with His Father.

The pattern of life is that a people follow their leader’s model.

Jesus demonstrated discipleship through:

**1. The Crucified Life**

Jesus lived a selfless life of obedience to the law of God. We are joined to Him by faith and our lives are modelled on His! See Romans 6:6-11; Galatians 2:20; 6:14; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17.

**2. The Narrow Way**

Jesus set the example for us, (Matthew 7:13-14)

Our discipleship to Jesus will challenge us:

• spiritually—Mark 8:34-38

• socially—Matthew 7:14

• economically—Mark 10:17-27; 2 Corinthians 6:10

• personally—Matthew 12:46-50

• physically— Mark 10:29-30; 14:50-52.

**3. Humility**

Matthew 11:28-30; Philippians 2:5-8; John 13:3-17.

Jesus demonstrated true humility throughout His life.

**4. Suffering**

1 Peter 2:18-25; Hebrews 5:8.

Through Christ’s example we should see suffering as;

a privilege—Acts 5:41,

a fellowship—1Corinthians 12:26; Philippians 3:10, and

to be accommodated—Philippians 4:12; 1 Peter 4:12-19.

**5. Servanthood**

Jesus came to serve others; John 13:12-17; Mark 10:43; Galatians 5:13; 6:10.

Practically discipleship means:

Commitment to love one another;

to work toward a common aim or goal;

to meet together regularly;

to share one’s life;

pressing on in the midst of difficulty;

not withdrawing when offended; and

not evading responsibilities.

Discipleship is pursuing Christ’s purposes in our lives with strong commitment and determination.

Disciples are made—they don’t just happen; Matthew 28:18; Matthew 7:21-29.

Therefore, though Jesus gave us;

1) AN OFFENSIVE POWER, power *to tread on serpents and scorpions*; that is to defeat all the works of the enemy, and

2) A DEFENSIVE POWER, which will protect us from attack.

We do not need to look for demons, but if and when we are confronted we need to know what to do. Jesus called His twelve together and gave them instructions on how to deal with demons, but He also gave them instructions to heal diseases and more importantly to ”PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD.” (Luke 9:1-2)

**Discerning Spirits**

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is “DISCERNING OF SPIRITS”, having the ability to clearly distinguish and judge a spirit. We have to learn to know what is demonic and what isn’t!

We are to ‘DISCERN’ whether we are confronting the devil or the flesh.

Both 2 Corinthians 2:11 and Ephesians 6:11 encourage us to be aware of the devil, not be ignorant of his methods and to stand against them.