

Topic: The Act of Discipleship

Text: Matthew 16:24-27; Acts 18:24-26

Aim: To remind brethren to live out their faith by actions that demonstrate and foster commitment to Christ and His teaching.

Introduction: Discipleship is a radical way of life instituted by Christ Himself. True discipleship as modeled by Christ and His early followers goes beyond regular gathering or logical belief systems. It is a lifetime journey of deliberate obedience, marked by love, sacrifice and fruitfulness. Discipleship is not a passive invitation, it requires actions, total surrender and unwavering commitment irrespective of challenges. The act of discipleship, therefore, is an intentional action a Christian takes against worldly standards and his desires to replicate it in other people's lives. It also refers to actions taken by Christians or followers of Christ that reflects their commitment to learning from and following Christ and as well as helping others do the same. Discipleship is made up of two components; the leader/mentor and the lead/mentee. Both are referred to as disciples because every believer is a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this study, we shall be discussing the acts/skills required for effective discipleship.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you understand by the "act of discipleship"? Discuss.
2. What are the qualities expected of an effective disciple? John 3:3 & 5; Eph. 4:14-15; Phil. 2:5 - 8
3. From the following Scriptures, identify the key acts of discipleship. Matt 28:19-20; Luke 9:23-25; John 8:31; 2 Tim 2:1-2.
4. Discuss the effect of poor/lack of discipleship in the church.

Conclusion: Discipleship is a life defined not by comfort but by commission, not by self but by surrender. Therefore, we must preach the goodnews at our various corners, deny ourselves from worldly pleasures, continue in the teaching of the Word and show love to perishing souls and fellow disciples. The act of discipleship therefore fosters spiritual maturity, empowers the believer to fulfil their purpose, encourages humility and build a formidable church community. The intentional act of discipleship is greatly rewarding and satisfying.

Memory Verse: Luke 14:27- "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple".

With all the temptations and consequences that follow, true disciples will not compromise their consecration, neither will they falter those values their master represents. Just as apostle Paul firmly established his stand in the love of God in Romans 8:38-39, even so the personality of disciples must showcase attitudes and actions that point out the character of Christ. These actions are not just detached from one's life but a way of life, demonstrating a disciple's growing maturity in their faith and in their desires

to share it with others. The act of discipleship therefore fosters spiritual maturity, empowers believers to fulfill their purpose, encourages humility and build a formidable church community.