



Leadership Through Discipleship

Learning to Lead
by Living to Follow

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The Relationship of
Discipleship
The Demonstration of Love

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The Relationship of Discipleship

35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."



"By this all will know that you are
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one another."

— John 13:34-35

NKJ John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

That is the Relationship of Discipleship

The Sons of Thunder

- James the *son* of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"
— Mark 3:17

–John, A leader learns to love.

From a 'son of thunder' to a beloved disciple, the power of relationship.

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Boanerges [bo-an-er-gees] = "sons of thunder" 1) a nickname given to James and John, the sons of Zebedee, by the Lord. The name seems to denote fiery and destructive zeal that may be likened to a thunder storm.

Much of our opinion of John is shaped by his later writing and his devotion to the Lord. What we often do not see is the man Jesus called from the fishing boat to "come follow me."



The Relationship of Discipleship

A Relationship that Costs

May 24, 2015
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Luke 14:15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

16 Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ 18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ 19 And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ 20 Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ 21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ 22 And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ 23 Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”

Christ Teaches on Discipleship

25 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

A Relationship that Costs

- **Luke 14:27** And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*— **29** lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, **30** saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’?

8

A relationship that costs
Counting the Cost...

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A Relationship that Costs

- **Luke 14:31** Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. **33** So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

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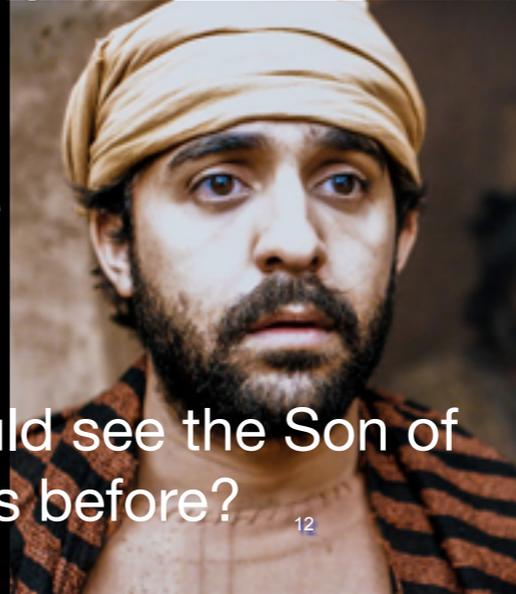
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A Relationship that Costs

- John 6:60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"
- 61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?"
- 62 "What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?"



A relationship that costs

From the inner circle to a circle of suspicion. Those who were closest became suspected of complicity (Suspicion that they were involved in a conspiracy or accomplices to a plan to overthrow the Romans.)

It was great to be associated with Jesus as long as the crowds were seeking Him and the miracles were sensational. When He began to teach them some of the cost associated with discipleship some begin to leave Him.

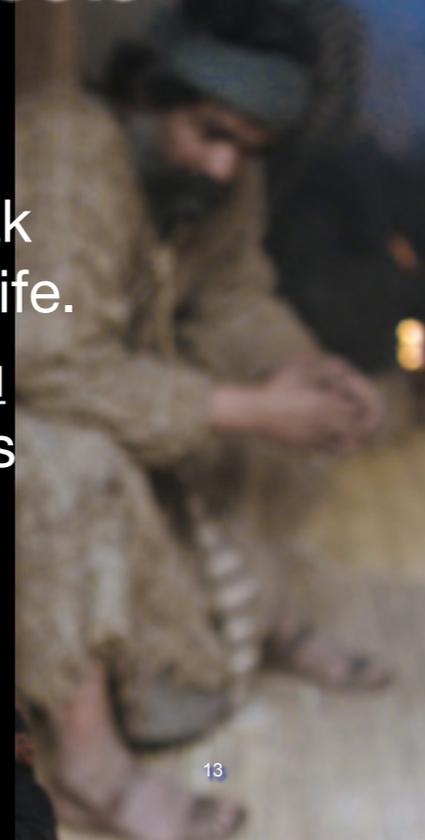
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A Relationship that Costs

- John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."
- 64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.



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A Relationship that Costs

- And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."
- From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.
- Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

—John 6:65-68¹⁴

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A Relationship that Costs



The greatest test to the loyalty of the disciples was when the soldiers came to the garden with torches and curses to arrest Jesus.

A Relationship that Costs

- Matthew 26:55-58 — In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. 56 "But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.
- And those who had laid hold of Jesus led *Him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

16

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A Relationship that Costs

- Matthew 26:55-58 — But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end.
- Mark 14:50 Then they all forsook Him and fled.
- 54 But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

17

NKJ **Matthew** 26:

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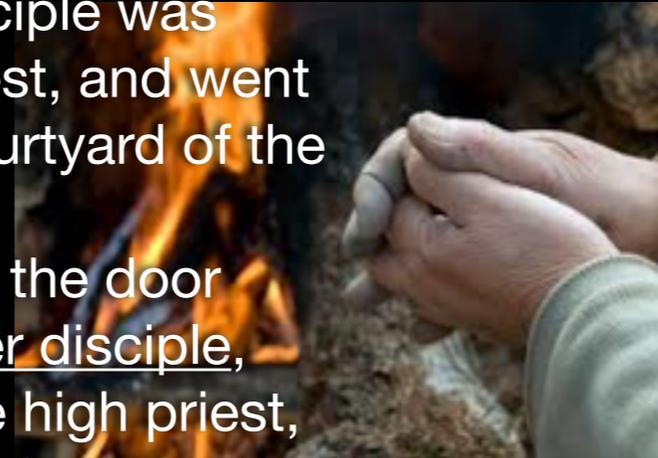
NKJ **Mark** 14:50 Then they all forsook Him and fled. (51...53)

54 But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

A Relationship that Costs

- John 18:15 — And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so *did* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.

16 But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in.



18

John lets us know he was also there...

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A Relationship that Costs

- Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "*Woman, behold your son!*" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.



—John 19:25-27

Only John records some of the events of the cross, indicating that he was an eye witness to these events

NKJ John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.
26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"
27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

A Relationship of Trust

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants -- things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

—Revelation²⁰ 1:1-3

A relationship of trust

From letter writer to visionary. Jesus could trust John with secrets from the end of time. He became the oldest surviving disciple. Trusted with the secrets of eternity, the Revelation of Jesus Christ!

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2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

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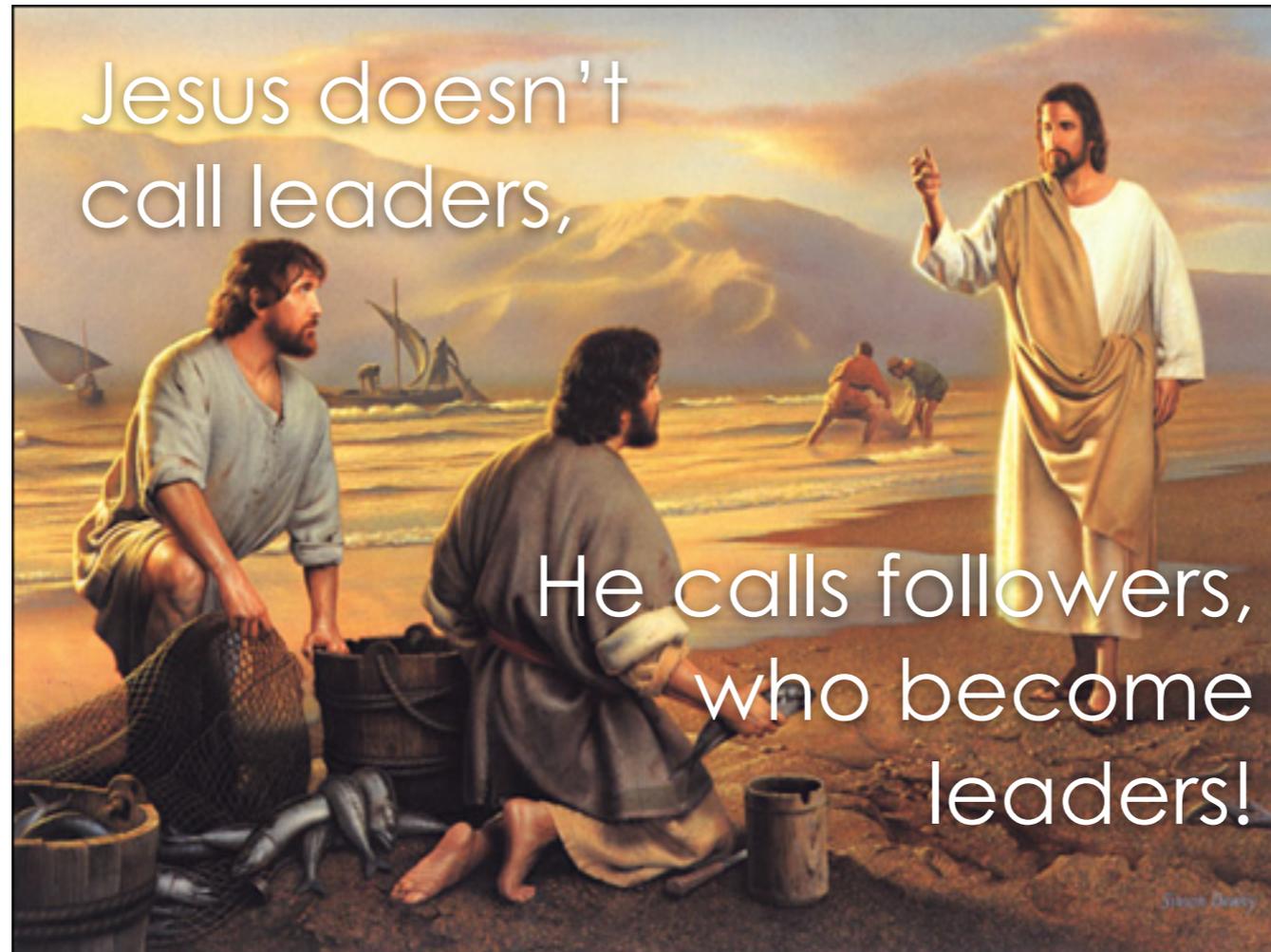


"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

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That is the Relationship of Discipleship



We often forget what we were before the Lord found us in our sin, saved us, and called us to be disciples. Or we excuse our lack of maturity and failure to change saying, "That's just the way I am."

Jesus does not call us just to be robotic followers. He does not mass produce disciples with mindless allegiance. Rather He calls us into a dynamic relationship. He treats us all as special individuals. Each of us is a unique design. His plan for your life is "one of a kind." He is not interested in blind followers but intelligent, passionate, and devoted disciples, developing and deciding day by day to grow in our relationship with Him.

There is a difference in being just a follower and truly being a disciple!

Jesus doesn't call leaders,
He calls followers,
who become
leaders!



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A Relationship that Cares

a. Called Disciples

Luke 14:33 "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be **My disciple**.

b. Called Friends

John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

c. Called Brethren

Matthew 23:8 "But you, do not be **called 'Rabbi'**; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all **brethren**.

A Relationship that Cares

d. Called Children of God (sons of God)

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
17 and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

Romans 9:26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, '*You are not My people,*' There they shall be called sons of the living God."

A Relationship that Survives Rumors

John 21:21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what *about* this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me."

23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?"