

## Seek (Week 3): Disciple and Lesser Words

### **Yesterday's Sermon - In 10 Sentences or Less**

1. Words matter, in fact, as neurologist Nadeem Kazi puts it, "Our words become our world."
2. Some of the most potent words that we use are "identity words": the nouns, not verbs, that we use about ourselves that describe who we are, not merely what we do (e.g., I am a voter vs. I voted, or I am a runner vs. I run sometimes).
3. Whereas phrases like "person of faith," "believer in God," or even "Christian" are problematic in at least one significant way, a better, more common identity word for those committed to Jesus is "disciple."
4. A disciple is a student, novice, intern, or trainee, which means that a disciple is always a work in progress.
5. The most common label for Jesus' followers in The Acts of the Apostles isn't "Christians" but "followers of The Way," as if Jesus has blazed a trail in the world that we as His apprentices are trying to imitate.
6. Our Christian mission is to go and make disciples, not merely to find more church attenders or giving units.
7. A disciple is a learner, at every new turn in life asking, "What do I need Jesus to teach me right now, and what do I need to try that I may never tried before?"
8. To be a disciple means that you willingly acknowledge that you are not the expert about life - or your own life...Jesus is.
9. A disciple will often need to unlearn before learning, stripping off the old self before putting on the new self (Colossians 3.9-10a), because none of us come to Jesus as a blank slate.
10. Discipleship is the only route toward all you hope to gain and experience in your relationship with God, like security and stability (Matthew 7.24), truth and freedom (John 8.31-32), and a brand new life (Luke 9.23-24).



## Being a Disciple this Week

1. Memorize a verse, and pray it for yourself every day this week (or, at least, every day you remember to do it):

[Luke 6.40](#) - "A disciple is not greater than their teacher, but every trained disciple will be like their teacher."

2. Read over this lengthy quote from "Mere Christianity" by C. S. Lewis a few days this week, and turn it into a prayer:

*"(God says) give me all. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work, I want you...No half-measures are any good...Hand over the whole natural self, all the desire you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked – the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you myself; my own will shall become yours...Give up yourself and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and the death of your whole body in the end; submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."*

3. Here are the two video lessons by Trevor Hudson on chapters 4 and 5 that you read last week:

[Trevor Hudson - Discerning Our Deepest Desires](#)

[Trevor Hudson - Exploring Life's Greatest Opportunity](#)

4. Spend some time reflecting on, journaling about, or talking with a friend or your small group about those two key questions that a disciple asks at every juncture of life:

- What does Jesus want me to learn right now? Or, what I need to be taught right now at this moment in my life?
- What is Jesus asking me to try right now, even if it's new to me and I'm not very good at it?

5. Dallas Willard (prominent in the "Seeking God" book) and Richard Foster on the New Testament call to be a disciple:

[The New Testament Picture of Discipleship - Dallas Willard](#)

[The Jesus Way of Life - Richard J. Foster](#)

6. A leading English Christian leader, Mike Breen, talking about the nuts and bolts of New Testament discipleship in a 7 minute video:

[Mike Breen - The Pattern of Discipleship](#)