

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

A disciple can be referred to as somebody who is following, learning or attaching himself to a particular teacher or master. He is with his master in order to learn and propagate his teachings to the world, especially after the death of his master or teacher. Every great teacher of the past who is well known, such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, Buddha, e.t.c, had disciples. Jesus, as a great teacher, also had disciples just like other great teachers.

Before a disciple could take over from his master, he has to undergo certain training called Discipleship. For someone to be successful in this training, he must be self sacrificial, totally committed, dedicated and loyal to the master or teacher in all things. Jesus taught His disciples concerning the demands of discipleship.

A disciple after training is expected to be a good ambassador to the master. This is the wish of Jesus to all Christians.

Call to Discipleship

The writers of the synoptic gospels are in agreement that Peter and Andrew, his brother, and two other brothers in the person of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were the first four disciples called by Jesus. The books of Matthew 4:18-25 and Mark 1:15-20 have the same order for the call of the disciples, but Luke 5:1-11 has a different order. Levi was the fifth to be called.

Levi, also called Matthew, was a tax collector, (Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17) and Luke 5:27-32. After Jesus had called these five disciples, many people began to follow Him about. Out of these people, Jesus chose only seven more people to add to the original five to make twelve disciples. These twelve disciples were established by Jesus as the foundation members of His church.

According to Matthew's account, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He met Peter and Andrew, who were brothers, casting their nets into the sea, for they were fishermen, when Jesus saw them, He moved closer to them and said to them: