

# Moving Forward with Discipleship

*Acts 2, Matthew 22, John 17*

**Main idea:** To provide a well-rounded understanding of discipleship and its importance in the life of a Christ follower

**Topic:** Discipleship, Most Important Thing, Christ Followers

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Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon on discipleship:

1. Emphasize the importance of discipleship: Build upon your current ideas by highlighting the significance of discipleship in the life of a Christ follower. You can refer to additional Scripture passages such as Luke 9:23, where Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." This verse reinforces the idea that discipleship requires self-denial and a daily commitment to follow Jesus.

2. Explore the characteristics of a true disciple: Expand on your message by discussing the qualities and actions of a genuine disciple. Consider incorporating Matthew 28:19-20, known as the Great Commission, where Jesus instructs his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. This passage highlights the mission and purpose of discipleship, encouraging your congregation to actively engage in spreading the Gospel.

3. Highlight the unity among Christ followers: Use John 13:34-35 to emphasize the importance of love and unity within the body of Christ. Jesus says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this, all people will know that you are my disciples if

you have love for one another." This verse reinforces the idea that discipleship involves not only following Christ but also loving and supporting fellow believers.

4. Utilize original language insights: In Acts 2:42-47, where the early believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer, you can explore the original Greek word for "devoted" (*proskartereō*). This word implies a steadfast commitment and perseverance in discipleship. By highlighting this original language insight, you can encourage your listeners to remain dedicated and unwavering in their pursuit of Christ.

5. Connect discipleship to other biblical examples: Look for other instances in the Bible where the concept of discipleship is exemplified. For example, you can reference the relationship between Paul and Timothy, highlighting how Paul mentored and disciplined Timothy in his faith journey. This can serve as a practical example for your congregation to understand the importance of discipleship in their own lives.

Remember to weave these additional ideas seamlessly into your existing sermon, reinforcing your main points and providing a well-rounded understanding of discipleship.