

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 2)

Does the New Testament consider a Christian, or a believer, to be the same as a disciple? Are the names synonymous? When Paul was about to depart from this life, he handed the torch to Timothy, who in turn must pass it on to others. What do we call one who does that? Is it proper to call a person a disciple who does not do it? Would Jesus consider a person a disciple who does not live in such a way as to pass the Gospel-torch to others? What does constitute a disciple of Jesus? Are all believers considered disciples, or are disciples believers with a higher level of commitment? There is not a consensus on this. Part of the problem comes from the fact that the term “disciple” is not always used the same way, and it doesn’t always describe the same people. Sometimes the New Testament refers to people as disciples who express an interest in Jesus, but they have not yet decided to follow Him (whatever following may mean). They were seekers. Sometimes their interests were carnal and self-serving. Others, who were called disciples in the Gospels had unbiblical and unrealistic expectations of the Messiah they were supposedly seeking. Many such “disciples” departed from Jesus without ever committing their lives to Him. Others believed that Jesus was the promised Messiah, but they were unsure of the level of commitment they were willing to make to Him. Then there were believers who were willing to follow Jesus to the fullest extent of His demands. I will refer to them as “radical disciples.” There were certain fundamentals that Jesus required for radical disciples. The purpose of this series is to explore these fundamentals, along with how to make radical disciples today.