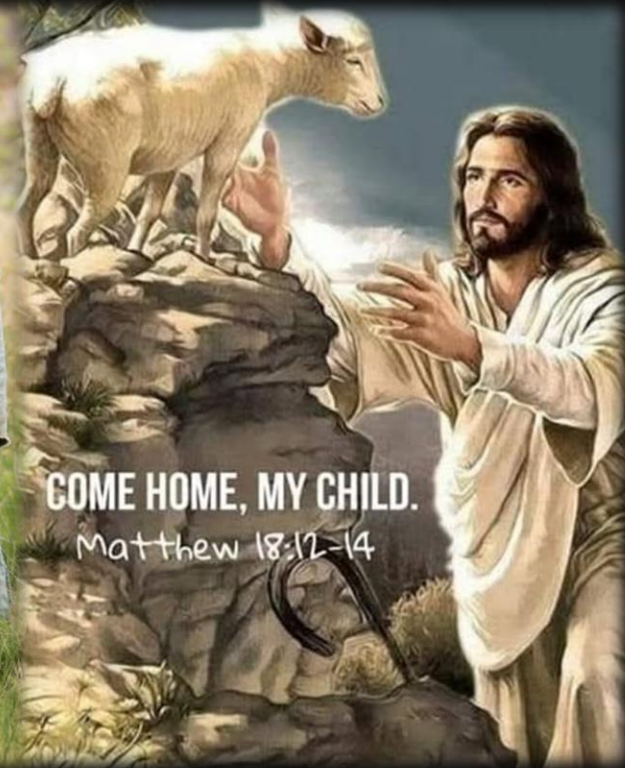




# Discipleship



2025-10-26

<https://audio.stmary-ottawa.org/sermons/2025/SMO-2025-10-26-Discipleship.pdf>

# Discipleship

*The Lord sent His disciples  
and told them to make disciples ...*

*“Go therefore and make **disciples** of all the  
nations, baptizing them in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*

MATTHEW 28:19

*The life of a servant is a life of discipleship.*

# One Teacher

*Christ is the One true teacher.  
We are all called to be His disciples.*



# One Teacher

*Christ is the One true teacher.  
We are all called to be His disciples.*

*What are the requirements to be His disciple?*

*Reference:*

*H.E. Metropolitan Youssef*

*November 2020 sermon available here:*

[youtube.com/watch?v=oojVtiOGZB0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oojVtiOGZB0)



# (1) ABIDE IN THE WORD OF GOD

*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him,  
“If you **abide** in My word,  
you are My disciples indeed.”*

JOHN 8:31

*Just listening to the Word of God is not enough.*

Transform the words into life.

**Live the Word of God.**

# (1) **ABIDE** IN THE WORD OF GOD

- **READ**  
*the Word of God*
- **UNDERSTAND**  
*the Word of God*
- Keep it in your **HEART**  
(meditate, reflect)
- Apply it in your **LIFE**
- Hold yourself **ACCOUNTABLE**



## (2) LOVE

*“By this all will know that you are My disciples,  
if you have **love** for one another.”*

JOHN 13:35

*If we do not love one another, we are not disciples.*

**A house divided against itself cannot stand.**

*If there is conflict among us, the servants, we are not  
disciples, and we cannot be successful.*

## (2) LOVE



### *Agape Love*

- a *WILLFUL* love
- a *DECISION* you make
- a *CHOICE* (not an ability)
- is *UNCONDITIONAL*
- is *SACRIFICIAL*
- is *LIMITLESS*



### (3) WALK IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

*“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to **walk** just as He **walked**.”*

I JOHN 2:6

*We need to walk according to the footsteps of Our Lord.*

**A disciple follows his Master.**

*“If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham.”*

JOHN 8:39

### (3) WALK IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

*“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to **walk** just as He **walked**.”*

I JOHN 2:6

ASIDE: the Arabic word “telmeez” (تلميذ) can be translated as:  
**PUPIL, STUDENT, DISCIPLE**

A **PUPIL** (in primary school) learns by feeding.

A **STUDENT** learns by studying.

A **DISCIPLE** learns by discipline, from the LIFE of their teacher.

A **DICIPLE** walks in the footsteps of their teacher.

# *Requirements to be a disciple ...*

1. **Abide** in the Word of God
2. **Love**
3. **Walk** in His **Footsteps**

*“Now great multitudes went with Him.  
And **He turned and said to them ...**”*

LUKE 14:25

***Before you follow Me, did you calculate the cost to be My disciples?***

4. Prioritize **God First**
5. Carry my **Cross**
6. **Detach** from the Earthly

## (4) PRIORITIZE GOD FIRST

*“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.”*

LUKE 14:26

“Hate” here is not to be taken as the opposite of love.

The message is that God is the priority, He is **first**.

I am not attached to anyone outside of God;  
even family is to be loved through God.

## (4) PRIORITIZE GOD FIRST

*Do I put God **first**?*

- *before my family*
- *before my spouse*
- *before my children*
- *before my self*

*Direct all love ...*

- *my love to my family*
  - *my love to my spouse*
  - *my love to my children*
- to be **included** within ...*
- *my love toward God  
(not against it)*

## (5) CARRY MY CROSS

*“whoever does not bear his **cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”*

LUKE 14:27

*Many of us, when we see the cross,  
we refrain from being disciples.*

*Carrying the Cross is part of our calling as disciples.*



## (5) CARRY MY CROSS

*“My child, when you come to serve the Lord,  
prepare yourself for testing.”*

SIRACH 2:1 NRSV

*Carrying the Cross includes my choices ...*

- *Choosing to **fast***
- *Choosing to wake up early to **pray***
- *Choosing to do those things **happily**,  
though they may be inconvenient*

## (6) DETACH FROM EARTHLY

*“whoever of you does not forsake **all** that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

LUKE 14:33

*We are like a bird that wants to fly ...*

*If the bird is tied with a rope to the ground, it cannot !*

**CUT THE CORD THAT BINDS YOU DOWN**

**LET YOUR SPIRIT SOAR TO HEAVEN**

## (6) DETACH FROM EARTHLY

*“See, we have left all and followed You.  
Therefore what shall we have?”*

*A hundredfold, and inherit eternal life!*

*“Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters  
or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for  
My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and  
inherit eternal life.”*

MATTHEW 19:27-30

*The Lord’s Promise: you will **gain everything!***

# (7) DO NOT LOOK BACKWARDS

*"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

LUKE 9:62

*Remember Lot's wife!*

**YOU NEED ONLY LOOK FORWARD ...  
KEEP YOUR EYES ONLY ON JESUS CHRIST**

# (7) DO NOT LOOK BACKWARDS

*Peter was walking on water with His eyes on the Lord.  
When he took his eyes off the Lord, he looked at the  
waves, the storm, the sea, and began to sink!*

*Keep your eyes on the Lord*

*Peter, later, during the Lord's trial, denied Him ... then Peter  
(looking at the Lord) saw the Lord looking at him. And Peter  
went out and wept bitterly.*

*Peter's repentance started from looking at the Lord!*

# (7) DO NOT LOOK BACKWARDS

*So long as you are His disciples,  
keep your eyes fixed on the Lord.*

*Looking **at the Lord** leads to  
our repentance,  
our deliverance,  
and our salvation.*



## (8) COMMITMENT

*A disciple should be committed to follow his Master.*

*Just like a student shadows the professor to learn,  
we are called to “shadow” the Lord.*

*A shadow is inseparable from what it shadows.*

***This requires commitment.***

## (8) COMMITMENT

*Commitment to the **service**.*

*Commitment to **preparation of lessons**.*

*Commitment to our **service meeting**.*

*Commitment to **visitation**.*

*Commitment to my **spiritual canon**.*

*If we lose our commitment,  
we are not shadowing the Lord.*

# (9) THE DESIRE TO LEARN

*If a student were to shadow a professor  
but have no desire to learn, it is pointless!*

*A disciple must have a desire to **learn**,  
to **retain** the knowledge,  
to **apply** it, and to **live** by it.*

*Learn from God's word;  
Learn from Early Church Fathers;  
In humility, learn even from nature itself.*

# (10) HUMBLENESS

*Without being humble, you can never learn!*

*Saint Paul said that he was disciplined  
at the **feet** of Gamaliel.*

*The sin of pride prevents any spiritual progress.*

*An arrogant or proud person can never learn.*

# (11) RETAIN WHAT WE LEARNED

*“Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.”*

PSALM 119:11

*A disciple studies and is tested to retain what was learned.*

***Retain what was learned in our MIND & HEART.***

# (11) RETAIN WHAT WE LEARNED

*“And these words which I command you today shall be in your **heart**.*

*You shall **teach** them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

*You shall **bind** them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

*You shall **write** them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”*

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9



# (12) EXERCISE

*Be patient & exercise!*

*Being a disciple is a journey, a **life** to be lived.*

*It does not happen overnight.*

*It does not happen instantly.*

***Apply what we learned through spiritual exercise.***

## *To be His disciple ...*

1. **ABIDE** *in the Word of God*
2. **LOVE**
3. **WALK** *in His Footsteps*
4. **PRIORITIZE** *God First*
5. **CARRY** *my Cross*
6. **DETACH** *from the Earthly*
7. **Do NOT** *look Backwards*
8. **Be COMMITTED**
9. **Have** *a desire to* **LEARN**
10. **Be HUMBLE**
11. **RETAIN** *what we Learned*
12. **EXERCISE** *and be patient!*

